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27 November 1984

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BRIEFS

TRADE WITH ASEAN, JAPAN--There has been an apparent dramatic rise in the value of Australia's imports from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations--ASEAN--so far this year. Preliminary figures released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics show that in the first 8 months of the year the value of Australia's imports from ASEAN countries amounted to more than \$1.0 billion. This was almost 60 percent more than in the same period last year and compares with the rise in the value of Australian imports of 42 percent. Imports from ASEAN countries accounted for almost 6 percent of Australia's total imports--a slightly higher proportion than last year. Despite the big rise in the value of Australia's imports from ASEAN countries there was a worsening of the overall trade imbalance. The value of Australia's exports to the ASEAN countries in the same period was more than \$1.4 billion--almost 40 percent more than the value of ASEAN imports. Imports from Australia's biggest trading partner, Japan, in the first 8 months of the year were worth more than \$3.36 billion--an increase of almost 30 percent on the same period last year. According to preliminary figures, Australian exports to Japan in the same period were worth more than \$4.5 billion. [Text] [Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0830 GMT 25 Oct 84 BK]

DARWIN TRANSMITTER REOPENED--The federal minister for communications, Mr Duffy, has reopened Radio Australia's transmitter in Darwin to broadcast to Asia. Mr Duffy said the government had spent more than \$10 million over the past 3 years replacing and upgrading equipment which was destroyed during cyclone Tracy in December 1974. The station has now resumed broadcasting 16 hours a day to Asia after several weeks of preliminary broadcast to test equipment. [Text] [Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0430 GMT 30 Oct 84 BK]

TRAINING FOR BRUNEI SOLDIERS--Two infantry companies of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces are to train in Queensland during November and December. The minister for defense, Mr Scholes, said the exercise was the first in a cooperative program between Australia and Brunei. [Text] [Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0830 GMT 29 Oct 84 BK]

PEACE MOVEMENT PETITIONS GOVERNMENT--A declaration signed by 221,000 people has been presented to the federal government calling on it to remove all bases which could be used for nuclear war and to end the visits by nuclear-armed or -powered warships. Representatives of the peace movement throughout Australia traveled to Canberra to present the petition. Senator Susan Ryan, representing the prime minister, told the peace delegates the government shared their convictions but she said they differed on ways of achieving disarmament. Senator Ryan defended the government shifting policy in allowing uranium sales. [Text] [Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0830 GMT 30 Oct 84 BK]

PRESS REVIEW ON JAKARTA INCIDENTS, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

BK010539 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 2300 GMT 31 Oct 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Commenting on a series of incident that took place in Jakarta since the end of last September up to the explosion at the Marine Corps ammunition depot in Cilandak, the SUARA KARYA daily appreciates the government's open-mindedness in handling the incidents, including the promptness in giving explanations on what has happened. SUARA KARYA said the government action will lessen the opportunity for those wanting to create disorder by spreading rumors. Despite the existence of speculation and attempt by irresponsible people to create anxiety, members of the public remain mature in their thinking and give their proper reaction. The daily also believes that the people continue to trust the government and remain resolute, thus ensuring the public life to proceed steadily.

Commenting on the sufferings of fellow human beings who fell victims of the explosion of the ammunition depot in Cilandak, the daily KOMPAS sees a noble humanitarian nature coming out of the disaster, namely, the sincerity and goodwill of residents in south Jakarta to provide help to the victims. During the Monday evening disaster, KOMPAS said, the residents of south Jakarta opened the doors of their houses, compounds, schools, mosques, and churches as shelters for the refugees.

Meanwhile, the daily SINAR PAGI praises the allocation of financial aid, especially for the economically weak people suffering from the disaster to repair their homes, by the Jakarta metropolitan government as an act of goodwill. The daily hopes such an incident will not recur in the future, and believes it would be better to think over quickly to remove all ammunition depots and weapon supplies to safer and off limits areas.

In its editorial entitled: "A New Chapter in Indonesia-PNG Cooperation," the daily BERITA YUDHA expresses its pleasure over better understanding and awareness on the part of the PNG government on the empty propaganda launched by the anti-Indonesia terrorists. The signing of the new basic Indonesia-PNG border agreement showed the understanding and awareness. For the two neighboring and friendly countries there is no other alternative than to maintain close friendship and cooperation. The friendship will, no doubt, benefit and profit both sides.

BERITA YUDHA believes that the new basic border agreement and the reaffirmation of guarantee by Prime Minister Somare not to allow the PNG territory to be turned into a base for anti-Indonesian elements are clearly a reaffirmation of what has been achieved and implemented in the past. BERITA YUDHA said that this is important and is indeed a new chapter in Indonesia-PNG cooperation.

CSO: 4213/41

KOMPAS HAILS VISIT OF BRUNEIAN SULTAN, ENTOURAGE

BK021132 Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 23 Oct 84 p 4

[Editorial: "Welcoming the Royal Guests From Brunei"]

[Text] We sincerely welcome Brunei Darussalam Sultan Muda Hassanal Bolkiah, who is now making a 4-day tour to visit the Indonesian state and people.

The Bruneian sultanate is a small but great country. It is small in terms of its territory of 5,764 square km and population of 210,000, but great in terms of its natural resources, tradition and potentials. All of a sudden, Brunei has become a precious pearl in this region.

Its presence also indicates a new fact in the current pattern of international relations: An independent nation, irrespective of the size of its territory, number of population, or availability of natural resources, has an equal level of sovereignty. The government and people of Indonesia are pleased to welcome the visit of Raja Istri Pengiran Anak Saleha [Bruneian sultan's wife].

There are several reasons for our pleasure in welcoming them. First, we feel proud that the great family of Malay race has gained another member--a respectable member that possesses great potential to contribute toward bilateral as well as collective cooperation within ASEAN. Second, as pointed out by a Thai princess [Sirinthon] during her recent visit to Indonesia, Indonesian society seems to respect anything connected with monarchism, especially if the person concerned conducts himself or herself in accordance with what the French describe as "noblesse oblige," or an obligation of responsible behaviour for people of high rank or birth. Third, there is a strong desire on the part of the Indonesian Government and people to forge mutually beneficial cooperation with the Bruneian sultanate. This can be seen from the frequent visits by various social groups as well as individuals to Brunei since the sultanate gained its independence.

As is shown by history, there was once a period when the monarchical system was contrasted with the republican system based on the assumption that the people's rights were more fully guaranteed under the republican system than under the monarchical one. However, people are becoming increasingly informed from various actual situations that the system of government is not a guarantee that people's rights will be respected, because a modern monarchical system also turns out to be capable of protecting democratic rights of the people.

The visit of the Bruneian sultan and his consort as well as the good bilateral relations also have other significance. Only recently have our neighbor countries in the South Pacific region expressed anxiety over the "big brother" attitude adopted by Indonesia. However, the good relations between Indonesia with its 150-million-strong population and Brunei with its population of only 210,000 have proved otherwise. The principle of mutual respect as independent nations is not primarily based upon the size of a country's territory but upon the consideration of equally sovereign and friendly countries. Nowadays, friendship is a must in international relations.

We highly appreciate the wisdom of Brunei, which immediately joined ASEAN upon gaining independence, because the country is now enriching ASEAN with its natural resources. At the same time, the decision to join ASEAN has provided a strong and collective basis for Brunei's ASEAN neighbor countries to cultivate and maintain good relations with the sultanate. In this case, the possibility of friction among ASEAN to obtain privileges in this small affluent country can be neutralized.

This benefit should not pass unnoticed by other neighbor countries like PNG. Through a direct bilateral approach or cooperation within ASEAN, any possibility of friction can be averted because the trend to cooperate will be stronger than any other trend while, at the same time, there is also collective supervision of the conduct of each member country.

Besides cultivating friendship based on the same race and close neighborhood, it is also sensible to further develop cooperation within ASEAN, any possibility of friction can be averted because the trend to cooperate will be stronger than any other trend while, at the same time, there is also collective supervision of the conduct of each member country.

Besides cultivating friendship based on the same race and close neighborhood, it is also sensible to further develop cooperation between Indonesia and Brunei. We hope that the Bruneian sultan's visit will provide more impetus toward that end--cooperation in the fields of economy, education and manpower.

Finally, it is hoped that through their visit to the upcountry regions, the royal guests will have a chance to get to know Indonesian society in a more thorough and intimate manner.

CSO: 4213/41

MERDEKA EDITORIAL ON ONE-PARTY DEMOCRACY

BK311143 Jakarta MERDEKA in Indonesian 22 Oct 84 p 5

[Editorial: "Our Political Structure"]

[Text] Following intensive discussion, a meeting of the Central Executive Council of the Functional Group [Golkar] has issued a political statement underscoring its attitude on various issues. One of its conclusions: A one-party system is not favored. The statement was issued--according to tradition--on the eve of the 20 October Golkar anniversary day.

The statement offers a realistic view of political development in Indonesia. In addition, it also asserts a certain awareness that adopting a one-party system in an unstable historical situation will not bring about good results but only setbacks. Consequently, this attitude should be underlined as a reminder that developing an inappropriate system in the present democratic life may bring about counterproductive repercussions viewed from the political, social and historical perspectives.

We believe many people maintain such an attitude in our country, implying that reform and simplification of the political structure are necessary. But to adopt monolithism is something else because national democracy must indeed grow and develop under the test of time, and be idealized in certain models and patterns. True, Indonesian democracy is in search of its form, however, the form must not amount to a one-party system. It may cause great consequences.

It is certainly worth noting in this regard the desire of two parties and the functional group to develop their respective strength and life. Of course, Golkar has the upper-hand because it is supported by the Indonesian Armed Forces [ABRI], capitalists, and the state bureaucracy, power and administration. This is not so for the two other political parties. They are inferior. They are not assured of political and financial status. We say this not to make division, as it is a fact that is seen, realized, and felt by all people.

How Indonesia will save the "triangular democracy" is difficult to predict. The Golkar general chairman, Susharmono, has revealed that he does not want Golkar to achieve absolute victory. This is a good idea. If that is the case, efforts must be made to enable not only Golkar but also the two other political parties to equally have stable organizations, political roles and activities,

and opportunities. How could the two political parties improve their position in the forthcoming general elections if only Golkar were stable while they were weak and less powerful? Would Golkar receive less than 70 percent of the votes as it probably does not favor a 100-percent vote? Were a total victory to happen, the Singapore syndrome would certainly come here, and it would not be good for democracy in the country. It can be said roughly, however, that Golkar can decide whether it needs 70, 80 or 99.99 percent of the votes in view of the fact that it controls all general election mechanism facilities. This is not a difficult and heavy job for it.

Indeed, it is a relief that the one-ideology issue can be overcome and settled. Program formulation and implementation will, however, become a problem. The settlement of the one-ideology issue has meant that the three socio-political forces must have freedom and access to all existing power lines to fight for their aspirations, participate politically, develop political control, give alternative proposals and even correct mistakes. The three socio-political forces must be guaranteed these rights in fighting for their programs. A challenge arises here: how to prevent subjective symptoms and discrimination so that the credibility of each force can be politically defended and maintained.

In the meantime, we should also review the conditions of the three existing forces. Golkar is in the best position to develop its objectives. The key only lies in how to maintain harmony between Golkar and the Indonesian Armed Forces, implying that Golkar must be able to present itself as a force trusted by the ABRI so that its existence can be guaranteed. Without assistance, understanding from, and harmony with ABRI, Golkar cannot become a politically effective organization.

The two political parties are faced with uncertainty. The Indonesian Democratic Party [PDI] is now facing new differences between two factions--the so-called "secular faction" and the so-called "pancasila PDI" faction. These labels are only factional political (? jargon) coined for enmity. Behind this enmity, the PDI's quality is increasingly worsening without hope for help from anyone inside the two factions. Accordingly, as observers, we lament the PDI's fate and hope that the party can be rebuilt with new leaders and an image and creativity to present itself as an element of the national democracy. It is up to the government to help the party.

The recent United Development Party [PPP] congress and a change in the attitude of the Nahdatul Ulama [Muslim organization belonging to the PPP] are surprising developments in the party. The party must continue to cope with the consequences of the congress. Ideologically, the congress was a big achievement and marked progress. However, it has given rise to psychological and organizational problems. It cannot be ruled out that these problems will drain the PPP's energy. Will issues in the Islamic sector and state politics be clarified after the Nashdatul Ulama convenes its congress and asserts its attitude on future political developments?

From the above-mentioned explanation, it seems that although the structural pattern of national politics has developed and demands for promoting development objectives have increased, consistency is needed to responsibly maintain

a situation to enable the existing political status quo to be preserved and enhanced in response to future needs without causing possibly undesirable consequences. This implies that the three forces must be considered appropriate forces to support the development of national democracy. It is necessary under the present situation to effect a proportional division of political work among the three forces in carrying out their respective national responsibilities in accordance with the terms approved by the people.

Accordingly, it is most important during the 1980's to think of how to maintain proportionally the organizational quality, concepts, and idealism of the three socio-political forces in accordance with challenges of the era. This basic challenge must really be taken up to maintain the existing political structure.

CSO: 4213/41

INDONESIA

BRIEFS

PARTY ASKED TO POPULARIZE PANCASILA--The chairman of the House of Representatives and the People's Consultative Assembly [DPR-MPR], Amir Makhmud, has stressed the need for every socio-political organization to carry out internal and external consolidation during the fourth 5-year development plan. During a meeting with the Central Executive Council of the United Development Party [PPP] led by its general chairman, J. Naro, in Jakarta today, the DPR-MPR chairman specially asked the PPP to maintain cooperation with Muslim scholars. He asserted that Muslim scholars and Muslims play an important role in facing communist subversion and that their dispute could be exploited by communists. The chairman of the highest state body also reminded the party of attempts by some elements to corner the government following the adoption of Pancasila as the sole ideology for political and mass organizations. In this regard, he asked the PPP to provide explanations to the people that Pancasila, as the sole ideology for political and mass organizations, is not against religion. Instead, it will develop the role of religious believers. [Text] [Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 1200 GMT 31 Oct 84 BK]

CALLS FOR SECURITY ENHANCEMENT--POS KOTA points out another lesson that can be learned from the recent marine depot explosion. It underscores the importance of further enhancing vigilance as unhealthy rumors have contributed to aggravating the situation following a series of unfortunate incidents in the capital recently. POS KOTA suggests that the neighborhood security system be further consolidated. [Text] [Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 2300 GMT 3 Nov 84 BK]

CSO: 4213/41

CLANDESTINE RADIOS REPORT BATTLEFILED ACTIVITY

Lao Youths Joining Resistance

BK270834 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 26 Oct 84

[Text] According to reports from Lao resistance groups, on 29 September about 84 Lao youths in Champassak Province felt compelled to join Lao national liberation forces. The reports say that these youths spoke about all kinds of hardship during their stay with the Vientiane regime under the Vietnamese aggressors' control.

They say that currently in Laos, apart from restricting people's rights, the Vientiane authorities are busily drafting people to serve in the army. The Lao people have been forced to build barracks for the Vietnamese aggressor soldiers along the Lao-Thai border. As for the living conditions of the Lao people, the Vientiane authorities have paid no attention to resolving them. Instead, rice has been collected to feed the Vietnamese aggressor troops that are occupying Laos. This is why they have decided to join the Lao national liberation forces to fight against the Vietnamese aggressors and their running dogs.

Vietnamese Position Attacked

BK110051 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 10 Nov 84

[Text] On 6 November, our national army launched an attack against the position of the Vietnamese enemy's 991st Brigade [Kang Pol] at O Don Ta on Pailin Battlefield [Battambang Province], where 3 regiments were gathered to attack us. After a battle lasting only 1 hour and 45 minutes, we completely destroyed this position. As a result:

1. We killed 219 Vietnamese enemy soldiers and wounded 296 others for a total of 515 casualties, including a brigade officer and 2 regiment officers killed on the spot with their bodies left on the battlefield.

2. We destroyed an assortment of 567 weapons, including 365 AK's 40 B-40 and 27 B-41 rocket launchers, 12 12.7-mm machineguns, 6 82-mm mortars, 26 60-mm mortar, 16 machineguns, 29 M-79's, 34 RPD machineguns, 1 120-mm mortar, 3 pistols, 6 CETME rifles, 300 big trenches, 600 small trenches, 360 houses and military buildings, 2 ammunition depots, a medicine stock, 1 C-46 field radio, and a number of warehouses.

We seized 34 AK's, 2 B-40 rocket launchers, 4 M-79's, 5 RPD's, 7 SKS's, 1 C-25 field radio, 214 AK loaders, 17,369 rounds of AK ammunition, 60 M-79 grenades, 75 B-40 rockets, 204 hand grenades, 100 mines, and a map. We completely liberated and controlled this position.

Vietnamese Settled in Stung Treng

BK061611 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT
5 Nov 84

["News commentary": "The Vietnamese Enemy Brought Three Boatloads of Vietnamese Nationals to Stung Treng Province"]

[Text] On 7 October, the Vietnamese enemy brought three boatloads of Vietnamese nationals to Stung Treng Province.

While the world is focusing its attention on the Vietnamization process in Kampuchea, the Vietnamese enemy aggressors have been trying to cover up or deny that they are implementing a Vietnamization policy in Kampuchea. However, they have been bringing more Vietnamese nationals to settle in Kampuchea both in the border areas adjoining Vietnam and in fertile areas in various provinces such as along the Tonle Sap, Mekong, and Bassak rivers. And now Vietnamese nationals have been brought to Stung Treng Province.

The Vietnamese enemy clearly realize they cannot defeat the Kampuchean people and Democratic Kampuchean National Army and guerrillas and annex our Kampuchean territory through military means. That is why they are busily and systematically implementing this Vietnamization policy in Kampuchea.

The Kampuchean people and Democratic Kampuchean National Army and guerrillas are furious with the Le Duan Vietnamese enemy aggressors and pledge to unite in completely thwarting and defeating this Vietnamization policy and chasing the Le Duan Vietnamese enemy aggressors from our Kampuchean territory.

100 Khmer Soldiers Desert

BK070937 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT
6 Nov 84

["New commentary": "One Hundred Fraternal Khmer Soldiers Posted in Pursat Province Deserted and Returned Home"]

[Text] On 23 October, 100 fraternal Khmer soldiers of battalions No 37, 71, 72, and 73, who were forced by the Vietnamese enemy aggressors to serve them

in Pursat Province, deserted and returned home. The cause of this desertion is that these fraternal Khmer soldiers did not want to serve the Vietnamese and die in their place. They did not agree to kill their fellow Khmer.

At present, the Vietnamese enemy aggressors are intensifying their forced draft of Khmer soldiers to help and replace them and to die in their place. The aggressors have done this because they lack the manpower to resist the vigorous attacks by our Democratic Kampuchean National Army and guerrillas. Furthermore, they have done this to launch an offensive to massacre the Kampuchean people in this dry season. The Khmerization policy of the Vietnamese enemy aggressors has been repeatedly and shamefully defeated because fraternal Khmer soldiers are politically awakened and increasingly angry at the Vietnamese enemy aggressors and race exterminators with each passing day. Fraternal Khmer soldiers have united and risen against the Vietnamese enemy aggressors. They have realized they have no reason to fight, die in the place of the Vietnamese, or oppose their own nation and people. In their quality as Khmer, they must unite and wage a struggle against the Vietnamese enemy aggressors for the defense of our Kampuchean nation and race.

At present, many Khmer soldiers forced by the Vietnamese enemy aggressors to serve them have united to fight the Vietnamese enemy aggressors through all forms. Moreover, they have deserted and returned home or joined the Democratic Kampuchean National Army and guerrillas in order to join hands and wage a struggle against the Vietnamese enemy aggressors until we achieve the final victory in liberating the Kampuchean nation and fatherland and our people and in safeguarding our Kampuchean race.

CSO: 4212/13

KAMPUCHEA

VODK APPEALS FOR PRESSURE FOR SRV WITHDRAWAL

BK081229 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT
7 Nov 84

[Station commentary: "The Kampuchean People Hope That the United Nations, the Ad Hoc Committee of the International Conference on Kampuchea, and all Peace- and Justice-loving Countries Will Seek Ways and Take all Efficient Measures To Pressure the Le Duan Vietnamese Enemy Aggressors To Withdraw all Their Aggressor Troops From Kampuchean Unconditionally and Let the Kampuchean People Determine Their Own Destiny in Accordance With the Past Six UN Resolutions"]

[Text] The UN General Assembly has now adopted six resolutions calling on the Hanoi Vietnamese enemy aggressors to withdraw their aggressor troops from Kampuchea immediately and unconditionally and let the Kampuchean people determine their own destiny without outside interference. During the past over 5 years, however, the Hanoi Vietnamese enemy aggressors have rejected, opposed, and scorned these UN resolutions.

The Le Duan Vietnamese enemy aggressors, while ignoring these resolutions have made every effort to bury them so that they can continue to annex Kampuchea forever, swallow Kampuchea, set up their Indochina federation and use it as a springboard to advance in conformity with their own aggressive and expansionist strategy and the aggressive and global expansionist strategy of their Soviet masters in this region. Their successive tricky maneuvers clearly show that the Le Duan Vietnamese enemy aggressors and their Soviet masters continue their aggressive and expansionist ambitions in this region. They do not want to respect international law, the UN Charter, and the UN resolutions as well as the repeated demands of the entire world and mankind. They continue to implement their aggressive and expansionist strategy. The Vietnamese will continue to carry out their war of aggression and genocide against the Kampuchean race, and continue to violate neighboring countries. Therefore, the Kampuchean problem has remained unsolved. The Kampuchean people have been massacred by the Vietnamese aggressor troops, and tension in the region remains. The danger of an expanded war seriously threatens this region. What are the measures that the United Nations and all peace- and justice-loving countries in the world must take in order to face the arrogance of the Le Duan Vietnamese enemy aggressors who are stubborn and

refuse to respect international law and the correct and reasonable demands of the international community, as well as to face the danger caused by the aggressive and expansionist ambitions of the Le Duan Vietnamese enemy and their Soviet masters in the region?

The Kampuchean people, who have suffered greatly from the Hanoi Vietnamese aggression in Kampuchea, hope that the United Nations, the ad hoc committee of the ICK, and 110 countries which cherish peace and justice and voted for the UN resolution calling on the Hanoi Vietnamese enemy aggressors to withdraw their aggressor troops totally and unconditionally from Kampuchea and to let the Kampuchean people determine their own destiny, seek ways and take all efficient measures to pressure the Hanoi Vietnamese enemy aggressors to implement these UN resolutions by pulling out all their aggressor troops unconditionally from Kampuchea and by allowing the Kampuchean people to determine their own destiny without any external interference. The Kampuchean problem cannot be permanently resolved, independence, sovereignty, and peace cannot be restored in Kampuchea inside its territorial integrity, Kampuchea cannot remain as a neutral and nonaligned country, and peace and stability cannot be restored in Southeast Asia unless the Hanoi Vietnamese, who are the aggressors, withdraw their aggressor troops totally and unconditionally from Kampuchea and respect the Kampuchean people's rights to self-determination free from external interference. This is the only correct and reasonable way to resolve the Kampuchean problem through political means. Successive tricky Vietnamese propositions to resolve the Kampuchean problem are not aimed at seriously resolving the issue, as expected by the international community and the entire mankind. These tricky maneuvers have been staged by the Vietnamese enemy aggressors to legitimize their aggression in Kampuchea so that they can swallow Kampuchea and set up an Indochina federation in compliance with their own aggressive and expansionist strategy and the aggressive and global expansionist strategy of their Soviet masters in this region. Thus, it is necessary for peace- and justice-loving countries throughout the world to continue to join hands to pressure the Vietnamese more vigorously with all their means--political, diplomatic, and economic--until they withdraw all their aggressor troops from Kampuchea and let the Kampuchean people determine their own destiny in accordance with the UN resolutions.

The Kampuchean people, the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea, and the CGDK are determined to unite more closely in order to cooperate with the United Nations, the ad hoc committee of the ICK, and all peace- and justice-loving countries to pressure the Vietnamese to implement the past six UN resolutions. They will resolutely continue to fight the Vietnamese enemy aggressors more vigorously on the Kampuchean battlefield until the aggressors are forced to withdraw all their aggressor forces from Kampuchea and respect the Kampuchean people's rights to determine their own destiny with no external interference in conformity with the UN resolutions.

CSO: 4212/13

BRIEFS

RED CROSS AID DISTRIBUTION--In October, the Kompong Thom provincial Red Cross committee distributed over 4 metric tons of rice, clothing, blankets, mosquito nets, and T-shirts--gifts from humanitarian organizations--to patients convalescing in hospitals. The committee also put aside another amount of rice for distribution in Stoung, Kompong Svay, Santuk, and Sandan districts and the provincial seat. [Text] [Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 6 Nov 84 BK]

20 'MISLED PERSONS' RETURN--In Kratie Province, 20 misled persons recently returned to the fold in a number of localities. These people brought with them many weapons and war materiel to our state revolutionary authorities and people, who expressed sincere joy over their return and provided assistance for them to build a new and peaceful life with their families. [Text] [Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 6 Nov 84 BK]

BUDDHIST DELEGATION'S RETURN--Phnom Penh, 6 No (SPK)--A delegation of the Kampuchean Committee of the Asian Buddhist Committee for Peace has returned to Phnom Penh after the international conference on Buddhism and national culture held in New Delhi recently. The delegation was led by Superior Bonze Tep Vong, president of the committee and vice president of the National Council of the United Front for Construction and Defence of the Kampuchean Fatherland. During its stay in India, the delegation visited the states of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. [Text] [Phnom Penh SPK in English 1117 GMT 6 Nov 84 BK]

SOVIET ART TROUPE--Phnom Penh, 5 Nov (SPK)--The Soviet art troupe "Gaia" of the Azerbaijan Republic arrived in Phnom Penh Monday on a visit to Kampuchea. On their arrival the Soviet artistes were welcomed by officials of the Ministry of Information and Culture and Soviet Embassy Counsellor Boris Romanov. [Text] [Phnom Penh SPK in English 1129 GMT 5 Nov 84 BK]

CSO: 4200/155

BRIEFS

SEMINAR ON PSYCHOLOGICAL WAR—Vientiane, 3 Nov (KPL)—The propaganda and training board of the party CC closed here yesterday a seminar on psychological war organized under the chairmanship of Col-General Saman Vinaket, secretariat member of the LPRP CC. Forty representatives from various ministries, state institutions and provinces studied the enemy's psychological warfare and exchanged views on preventive measures. Taking part in the closing ceremony were Channai Douang-boutdi, member of the LPRP CC, director of the party school, and other senior officials. [Text] [Vientiane KPL in English 0915 GMT 3 Nov 84 BK]

TRADE DELEGATION RETURNS—Vientiane, 31 Oct (KPL)—A Lao trade delegation led by its deputy-minister, Chanpheng Bounnaphon, returned here yesterday from a week-long visit to Vietnam. During its stay there the Lao delegates met with Vietnamese trade officials and discussed their past activities in trade cooperation. They also signed a trade protocol for 1985 between the two countries. [Text] [Vientiane KPL in English 0906 GMT 31 Oct 84 BK]

VIETNAMESE PROVINCE'S TRADE COOPERATION—Vientiane, 31 Oct (KPL)—An agreement on short- and long-term cooperation in trade was signed on October 28 between the trade services of the Lao northern Luang Namtha Province and its Vietnamese sister province of Vinh Phu. The two sides in their discussion reviewed the implementation of trade cooperation plan between the two provinces during the past two years, and worked out a new plan for the next two years. Signing the document for the Lao side was Bounthang, deputy head of the provincial trade service, and for the Vietnamese side Duong Diem, deputy-head of Vinh Phu's trade service. [Text] [Vientiane KPL in English 0907 GMT 31 Oct 84 BK]

LAO-CUBAN RELATIONS ANNIVERSARY—Vientiane, 3 Nov (KPL)—Cuban Ambassador to Laos Mario U. Garcia Vazquez organized here yesterday a get-together marking the 10th anniversary of the establishment of Cuban-Lao diplomatic relations (Nov 4). It was attended, among others, by Khambou Sounisai, member of the party CC, chairman of the Vientiane administrative committee; Phao Bounnaphon, alternate-member of the party CC, minister of transport and post; and Deputy-Foreign Minister Souban Salitthilat. The get-together proceeded in a cordial atmosphere. [Text] [Vientiane KPL in English 0917 GMT 3 Nov 84 BK]

DELEGATION RETURNS FROM USSR--Vientiane, 3 Nov (KPL)--A delegation of Lao-Soviet Friendship Association led by its Vice-President Khamliang Pholsena, who is also minister of public health, was back home from the Soviet Union on 1 Nov. The delegation had participated in a Lao-Soviet solidarity week organized in Azerbaijan from October 19 to 24. Meeting the delegation at the airport here were Leuan Insisianamai, also vice-president of the Lao-Soviet Friendship Association, and other high ranking officials. [Text] [Vientiane KPL in English 0919 GMT 3 Nov 84 BK]

SOVIET DELEGATION'S ACTIVITIES--Vientiane, 3 Nov (KPL)--The provincial administrative committee of Champassak recently held a rally in commemoration of the 67th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. At the meeting, Thong-in Thammakot, deputy secretary of the provincial party committee, and Drobychev [name as received], Central Committee member of the All-Union Council of Trade Unions of the USSR, chairman of the trade union of Koungbychev [name as received] region, head of the visiting delegation, delivered speeches. They described the success of the October Socialist Revolution a great encouragement to the national liberation movement throughout the world against neo-colonialism and racism, for democracy, freedom and justice. They also spoke of the remarkable achievements of the Soviet people in their national defense and construction since. [Text] [Vientiane KPL in English 0912 GMT 3 Nov 84 BK]

CSO: 4200/155

VOMD 'DIALOGUE' ON REGIME'S 'NEW CRISIS'

BK010829 (Clandestine) Voice of Malayan Democracy in Malay 1215 GMT 29 Oct 84

["Dialogue" on current events entitled: "The Mahathir-Musa Regime Is Experiencing a New Crisis"]

[Excerpts] [First Speaker] The paramount ruler's sharp criticism of the Mahathir-Musa [2-M] clique is precise. Concerning the new finance minister, Daim Zainuddin, it is said that he is the chairman of the (?Fritz group), the United Malays National Organization's right hand in the financial investment and trade sectors. The (?Fritz) group also has three private business enterprises on the peninsular that started their operations recently. How did the newspapers know? How did Daim Zainuddin become wealthy?

[Second Speaker] What you said is correct. According to facts in the newspapers, Daim Zainuddin, who is 46, hails from the legal sector. From the moment of his appointment as finance minister, he has a large portion of the stock in at least three of the biggest companies, having 33.3 percent of the United Estate Project Berhad and [word indistinct]. He also coordinates with Japanese and South Korean contractors. Daim Zainuddin also possesses stock in Cold Storage Limited, Taiping Consolidated, and some other companies. He is regarded as having the Midas touch in the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange and the Singapore stock market. Not long ago, he changed some 51 percent of the Malaysian [word indistinct] Bank Berhad to the United Malayan Banking Corporation shares. This had attracted the financial sector. According to ASIaweek the personal worth of the new finance minister is to about MS 600 million, including companies listed in the equity market. According to newspapers, his involvement in the economic field began when Harun Idris, at the time chief minister of Selangor State, sold him 300 acres of land that he developed into the Taman Maluri housing scheme. Factually, the so-called brilliance of this man is none other than buying and selling real estate, speculating in stocks, and being dependent on top-notch government executives--namely Mahathir's family and some others.

[First Speaker] In your opinion, can the new finance minister save the 2-M clique from the ever-increasing current crisis?

[Second Speaker] The SULUH RAKYAT editorial has shown that the 2-M clique's failure to shake itself free from the ever-increasing economic and financial

crises is one of the reasons for its taking drastic measures to suppress the dissatisfied people. With the appointment of the new multimillionaire finance minister, who had suddenly become wealthy through real estate and stock speculation, the dictatorial regime is hopeful that it will overcome the financial crisis it is currently facing. In my opinion, people have started to think. Has it ever happened like this before?

[First Speaker] Do you think that the 2-M regime can shake itself free from the dilemma of this crisis using their iron-hand actions such as arresting people, prohibiting assemblies, and blocking news?

[Second Speaker] The iron-hand actions that the 2-M clique has carried out were considered by the people to be those of a person who has lost his presence of mind and swallowed poison instead of medicine to cure himself, which will assuredly result in his own destruction. As accurately stated in the SULUH RAKYAT editorial, the cruel suppression by the 2-M clique is currently facing strong opposition from the people, especially the Malays and the Muslim community in every nook and cranny of the country. The people have launched various forms of struggle to bring about democracy, justice and total freedom to the country. They feel that any cruel government--no matter what form of achievement it has attained and no matter how great its armed strength--will sooner or later succumb to the people's uprising.

CSO: 4213/43

BRIEFS

FOREIGN TRADE FIGURES--Malaysia showed encouraging achievement in foreign trade for the first 6 months of this year with a recorded trade surplus of 2.5 billion ringgit, an increase of 650 percent over the same period last year. According to the statistics department, the surplus was achieved following a high increase in palm oil, liquefied natural gas, and crude oil export revenue. The value of export goods from January until June increased by 21 percent to 18.33 billion ringgit. Import value increased by 7 percent to 14.75 billion ringgit, while export of palm oil increased by 142 percent to 2.23 billion ringgit. Revenue from petroleum increased by 16.5 percent to 4.59 billion ringgit and that from rubber increased by 32.6 percent to 2.06 billion ringgit. Revenue from cocoa export increased by 97 percent to 234.5 million ringgit, while black pepper increased to 32 million ringgit. Value of coconut oil export increased to 77.2 million ringgit. Revenue from tin export declined to 549.9 million ringgit in the 1st half of this year. [Summary] [Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in Malay 1230 GMT 24 Oct 84 BK]

RITHAUDDEEN BACKS ASEAN-EEC COOPERATION--The minister of foreign affairs, Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen, says that time has come for ASEAN and the EEC to renew their cooperation agreement to enhance more effectively cooperation between the two regional associations. This includes expansion of fields of economic cooperation and elimination of barriers hampering ASEAN's exports to EEC countries. The minister left for Bangkok today to discuss preparations for an ASEAN-EEC dialogue scheduled to take place in Dublin, Ireland, on 14 November. He said that the dialogue would review the ASEAN-EEC cooperation agreement signed in Kuala Lumpur in 1980. He added that the dialogue was also expected to expand the cooperation agreement to include Brunei, ASEAN's newest member. Tengku Rithauddeen is holding a series of discussions with his ASEAN counterparts on formulating a common stand on the cooperation and the Kampuchean issue. [Text] [Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in Malay 0900 GMT 1 Nov 84 BK]

CSO: 4213/43

PRESIDENTIAL LAWMAKING POWERS REVIEWED

HK090146 Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 8 Nov 84 p 7

[Article by Pacifico A. Castro, deputy minister for foreign affairs: "Indigenous Roots of Amendments 5 and 6"; passages within slantlines published in italics or boldface]

[Text] In an earlier article, constitutional law provisions, practices, and jurisprudence of foreign countries were cited to support the proposition that the power of the president to issue decrees in a republican parliamentary system of government is a well-established legal instrument for governance. The purpose of this brief article is to present the Filipino roots and practices on presidential decree and law making powers.

In the Constitution of the /First Philippine Republic of 1898,/ President Emilio Aguinaldo was empowered to issue decrees under Article 96 which provided that /"... the government of the republic shall have the power to issue decrees and regulations necessary for the immediate organization of the various organs of the government."/

Article 99 also provided that /"... in the meantime that the country is fighting for independence, the government is empowered to resolve, during closure of congress, all questions and difficulties not provided for in the laws which gives rise to unforeseen events, by the issuance of decrees,"/ of which the permanent commission shall be duly appraised as well as the assembly when it meets in accordance with the Constitution.

Pursuant to this constitutional mandate, President Aguinaldo issued more than 100 decrees including one for a public loan of P20 million. (see: The Laws of the First Philippine Republic, compiled and edited by Simplicio Guevarra, UP Law Center).

During the Second Philippine Republic, President Jose P. Laurel was similarly mandated by the Article II, Section 14 of the 1943 Constitution to exercise legislative powers, to wit: /"When the National Assembly is Noz 8, 389, the president, may, in cases of urgent necessity, promulgate rules and ordinances which shall have the force and effect of law until disapproved by resolution before the end of the next regular session of the National Assembly."/

Under this provision, executive and administrative, orders that has the "force and effect of law" were issued.

In addition thereto, President Laurel was vested with commander-in-chief powers (Article III, Section 4) identical with, and as co-extensive as, the powers of the president of the Philippine Commonwealth and the president of the Third Republic (Article VII, Section 10, paragraph 2), as follows:

/"The president shall be commander-in-chief of all armed forces of the Philippines and, whenever it becomes necessary, he may call out such armed forces to prevent or suppress lawless violence, invasion, insurrection, or rebellion, or imminent danger thereof, when the public safety requires it, he may suspend the privileges of the writ of habeas corpus, or place the Philippines or any part thereof under martial law."/

Viewed against this historical background, the decrees of President Ferdinand E. Marcos may be classified into three categories, namely:

- 1) Decrees issued pursuant to the constitutional powers as commander-in-chief from the day martial law was proclaimed on 21 September 1972 up to 27 October 1976 when Amendment No 5 became effective. (PD No 1 to PD No 1043)
- 2) Decrees issued pursuant to Amendment No 5 empowering "the incumbent president... to exercise legislative powers until martial law... (was) lifted" on 17 January 1981. (PD No 1044 up to PD 1840)
- 3) Decrees issued pursuant to Amendment No 6 "whenever in the judgment of the president there exists a grave emergency or a threat or imminence thereof, or whenever the... the regular National Assembly fails for any reason that in his judgment requires immediate action, he may, in order to meet the exigency, issue the necessary decrees, orders, or letters or instruction, which shall form part of the law of the land." (PD 1841 to PD 1957)

Since only about 100 decrees have been issued since the lifting of martial law almost 4 years ago or an average of 25 decrees a year, President Marcos has indeed been sparing and judicious in the exercise of his decree powers under Amendment No 6. According to leading French constitutional authorities Professors Luchaire and Cognac (Constitution de la Republique Francaise) and Jean Massot (Le Chef de Gouvernement en France) the French decrees a year without prior consideration by the Council of Ministers under Article 13 of the French Constitution.

The burning issue today is may the president issue tax decrees? On the basis of the universally recognized reasons for the exercise of emergency decree powers, namely: (1) threats to the institutions of the republic (2) independence of the nation (3) integrity of its territory or (4) fulfillment of its international obligations/ (see: Article 16, French Constitution) the question may be answered in the affirmative. It is of public knowledge that the recent tax decrees were issued to insure the fulfillment of financial international obligations of a bilateral and multilateral nature with IMF, WB, ADB, etc. vital to the national economic recovery and stability program of the government.

To call President Marcos dictator because of the constitutional decree powers would be tantamount to maligning Presidents Aguinaldo and Laurel who were similarly mandated by our people to exercise legislative powers under the 1898 and 1943 Constitutions of our first and second republics, respectively.

CSO: 4200/149

40 PERCENT OF FAMILIES SAID BELOW POVERTY LEVEL

HK081226 Quezon City ANG PAHAYAGANG MALAYA in English 3 Nov 84 p 3

[Text] Manila (depth news)--Distribution of the national income remains lopsided despite a standing government policy seeking a more equitable spread of wealth.

Providing latest substantiation to such a skewed economic fact of life in the Philippines is a government report which shows that the largest share of the national family income in 1983 went to only 2 percent of total households in the country.

The finding underscored anew observations that the nation's few rich continue to grow richer while the numerous poor sink deeper into poverty.

Likewise underlined is a standing government policy which seeks equitable distribution of the national wealth.

A survey taken by the National Census and Statistics Office (NCSO) found that total family income in the Philippines during the 1983 fourth quarter amounted to P51.95 billion and that 16.5 percent of the sum went to families with incomes of P25,000 and upwards.

The government agency said such high-income households made up only 2 percent of the total 9.3 million estimated households in the nation as of end-1983.

Second largest share of the national family income at 15.1 percent was accounted for by households in the P10,000 to P14,999 income bracket. Their number represented only 6.9 percent of the total.

Accounting for the third biggest slice of 14.7 percent were families with incomes of P5,000 to P7,499. They made up 13.2 percent of total households.

In contrast, NCSO reported that majority of households in the country of 34.1 percent of the total had income of only P1,000 to P2,999 during the last 3 months of 1983. Their share of the national family income came up to only 11.9 percent.

The poverty line in the Philippines is presently estimated at P2,500, meaning a family of four or five must earn such an amount monthly to be able to afford

costs of decent daily meals, shelter, clothing and the other basic necessities. A World Bank report claims 40 percent of Filipino families live below the poverty line.

According to the NCSO survey, families with incomes of P1,000-P1,999 constituted 18.8 percent of the total households while those which earned P2,000-P2,999 made up 15.3 percent.

NCSO further found that 2.9 percent of the households had incomes of less than P500 during the last quarter of 1983 but pointed out that such a percentage is lower than the 3.3 percent recorded in the same 1982 period.

Households with incomes of P500-P999, comprising 8 percent of the total, had only a 1.1 percent share of the national family income while shares of those in the P1,000-P1,999 and P2,000-P2,999 brackets were 5.1 and 6.8 percent, respectively, NCSO said.

As listed by the agency, here is how the national family income was shared by households in the other income brackets.

--Families with incomes of P3,000-P3,999 representing 12.6 percent of total households with a 7.8 percent share of the national income;

--P4,000-P4,999, making up 8.7 percent of total households with share of 7 percent;

--P7,500-P9,999, comprising 7.6 percent of total households with share of 11.3 percent;

--P15,000-P19,999, constituting 2.5 percent of total households with share of 8 percent; and

--P20,000-P24,999, representing 1.5 percent of total households with share of 5.9 percent.

Analyzing the total national family income during the last 3 months of 1983, NCSO said the P51.94 billion showed a 24.5 percent jump over the corresponding 1982 income of P41.724 billion.

The government agency said the increase enabled the average national family income to climb to P5,536 for the whole of 1983 compared to the P4,533 of 1982.

Looking at family incomes on the regional level, NCSO said those in Metro Manila had the highest average compared to counterparts in the 12 other geographic-administrative regions.

Average or mean family income for Metro Manila for the whole of 1983 was computed by NCSO at P7,270 or higher than the national average of P5,536. The agency added that such an average grew by 26.8 percent between the 1982 fourth quarters.

Families in the Western Visayas region were reported by NCSO to have suffered a 10.1 percent decline in average income compared to the year-ago level. The agency did not state reason for such a drop.

Wages and salaries were identified by NCSO as the main source of income for majority of the families although net receipts (mostly income from agricultural produce) was the chief source for majority of families in 10 regions.

Families with net receipts as main income source represented 35.7 percent of total households, slightly lower than the 38.6 percent recorded for 1982, NCSO said.

The agency also observed that the rise in average family income in 1983 resulted in a slight decline in number of families receiving incomes lower than the national average.

Such families constituted 69.1 percent of the total. NCSO said the 1982 percentage was 71 percent.

However, NCSO clarified that the improvement failed to erase the fact that majority of families in the country remain stuck in the P1,000-P1,999 income bracket.

CSO: 4200/149

PHILIPPINES

12 NPA MEN KILLED IN CLASH 11 NOV

HK121525 Manila TIMES JOURNAL in English 12 Nov 84 pp 1, 6

[By Eric Gallego]

[Text] Twelve New People's Army terrorists were killed yesterday as government troopers intensified operations in Mount Guinalaban in Misamis Oriental and the Diwata mountain range in Agusan del Sur and Surigao del Sur where several suspected rebel strongholds are located.

Reports of atrocities of the NPA in the rural areas, meanwhile, continued to mount. The NPAS killed a Sangguniang Panlungsod member in Gingoong City and a couple and a milita man in Surigao del Sur.

Reports reaching Regional Unified Command 10 did not identify the slain rebels. Military officials said the intensive military operation was an offshoot of a series of terrorist attacks in several areas in Northern Mindanao which left a death toll of 17 army soldiers and 13 civilians, including a town mayor of Misamis Occidental.

In Gingoong City, Baranggay Captain Manolo Obidencio of Baranggay Talisay, president of the Association of Baranggay Councils in that city, was shot at close range while he was drinking with two friends at a sari-sari store.

The other victims included a couple and a milita man who were executed in public by the NPA in Baranggay Gamid, Barugo, Surigao del Sur yesterday.

The report said Talantio Ginging and the couple, identified as Francisco Patuan and wife Cerena, were picked up from their houses and tied up, before they were executed in public at Baranggay Plaza.

The Second Scout Ranger Battalion under Lt Col Baylon Platon killed four rebels and wounded three others during a two-day military operation in Mount Ginalaban near Claveria, Misamis Oriental.

The scout rangers were hunting a band of 80 NPA terrorists which killed two soldiers and two civilians in a raid at the detachment post in Baranggay Tambubuan, Claveria last October 28 when they chanced upon two splinter groups of NPAS in Baranggay Bulangan and Baranggay Lantad.

Platon said four rebels were killed and three others were wounded in that encounter.

The 28th Infantry Battalion troopers, meanwhile, encountered 15 rebels in Barangay Talisyan, San Agustin, Surigao del Sur, and killed three; NPAS during a 30-minute gun battle.

In another incident, the 30th Infantry Battalion troopers were pursuing the manhunt against a band of 200 NPAS which attacked the detachment camp of Alpha company in Lianga, Surigao del Sur when they met a group of five rebels in Bayuga, Agusan del Sur. The soldiers killed the four rebels, captured one and recovered three firearms. The NPAS retreated to Mount Diwata toward Bayugan town after they raided the camp in Lianga.

CSO: 4200/157

PHILIPPINES

FURTHER ERPORTAGE ON RASH OF HOTEL FIRES

Mayor Suspects Sabotage

HK100020 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 9 Nov 84

[Excerpts] First in the news, the fifth hotel fire to hit the country in 23 days killed 7 persons and injured 11 others at around 0100 yesterday [9 November]. This prompted the police to take a long second look at the arson angle. Razed in the 45-minute fire was the 8-story 108-room Las Palmas Hotel.

Manila Mayor Ramon Bagatsing said yesterday the rash of disastrous hotel fires in the city could be the handiwork of terrorists out to sabotage the tourist trade and the general image of the country. He made the observation after inspecting the Las Palmas Hotel in Ermita yesterday morning. He said that it is just possible that this is sabotage work of terrorists intending to undermine our tourist trade and country's image, particularly in the eyes of people abroad.

Meanwhile a 40-minute fire of undetermined origin occurred in an office in the port area of Manila last night, destroying property estimated at 300,000 pesos. It was the fourth fire to occur in the city within a span of 24 hours.

Anonymous Calls

HK110027 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 10 Nov 84

[Text] Hotels in the metro Manila area tightened their security yesterday [10 November] as some of them received anonymous calls they would be next in a rash of tourist hotels that has killed about 40 people, including 12 foreigners, in just over 2 weeks. The latest fire, which killed 7 people and injured 13 others, occurred early Friday at Manila's 8-story Las Palmas Hotel, a week after President Marcos ordered the military to look into intelligence information suggesting urban terrorists were behind the first two.

Guards in at least 6 of Manila's 30 tourist-class and luxury hotels were seen yesterday searching bags and frisking people after some of them reported receiving warning telephone calls that they were next on the list.

he manager of a hotel in Manila's Ermita tourist quarter said maybe it's a prankster, but we cannot take that lightly, what is happening is no longer a joke.

Police authorities also formulated yesterday precautionary measures to be adopted by hotel owners after the series of fires. A police spokesman said the security measures have been disseminated confidentially to all concerned parties as investigators are eyeing arson as the most probable cause of the fires.

CSO: 4200/157

BRIEFS

NPA ATTACK BUKIDNON DISTRICT--A group of about 80 armed NPA rebels attacked a poblacion [municipal district] of Baungon Town in Bukidnon early yesterday [12 November] morning, killing 2 government troopers and a security guard of an agricultural firm in the area. Baungon is one of the five towns near the Bukidnon-Cagayan de Oro city border. It is about 25 km south of Cagayan de Oro City. The rebels struck at about 7:30 in the morning in the three groups. One of the groups attacked the town hall, which was still deserted at that time, and killed a PC [Philippine Constabulary] constable and a CHDR [Civilian Home Defense Forces] member in the ensuing gunbattle. Another group ransacked the Philippine Agro Corporation, an agricultural firm, and took a single sideband radio set, a walkie-talkie, a typewriter, and an undetermined amount of money. A security guard of the firm, Roy Bacaro, was gunned down by the rebels when he tried to stop them. Another group took a PC soldier as hostage and paraded him around the poblacion. The residents were reportedly asked if the soldier was abusive. The public, however, vindicated him and the soldier was freed. [Text] [Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 12 Nov 84 HK]

NPA ATTACKS IN MINDANAO--Back here at home, Army troopers battled NPA's [New People's Army] in two separate encounters in the country over the weekend. Army Chief Gen Josephus Ramos said the first encounter took place in Santa Rita, Cagayan. Reports said that NPA's attacked an army detachment, but failed to overrun the camp. The second encounter took place in Tacurong, (Sultan Kudarat), resulting in the deaths of several NPA's. [Text] [Quezon City RPN Television Network in English 1100 GMT 12 Nov 84 OW]

RAMOS: NO EL DIABLO APPREHENSIONS--Acting Armed Forces Chief Fidel Ramos says the people should not have any apprehensions about the so-called El Diablo crime-buster group within the armed forces. General Ramos made the statement following the initial investigations conducted on the group's activities and aims. Ramos said investigators found out that the El Diablo crime-buster organization has a noble cause and objectives. He said the organization has for its leaders outstanding men in uniform. [Text] [Quezon City Maharlika Broadcasting System in English 0400 GMT 10 Nov 84 HK]

BASE LABOR AGREEMENT TALKS--Negotiations are expected to be concluded next month for a new base labor agreement between the Philippines and the United States. The proposed new agreement will cover the employment of 22,000 Filipino workers in U.S. military installations in the country. The U.S. panel is headed by Labor Attache Joseph Lee, while Deputy Labor Minister Carmelo Noriel heads the Philippine panel. The two sides have discussed issues like the grant of the mid-year bonus for Filipinos and the authority of the American base commander to review decisions of the arbitration board at the bases. [Text] [Quezon City Maharlika Broadcasting System in English 0400 GMT 9 Nov 84 HK]

MENDOZA ON LAWYERS SUIT--Justice Minister Estelito Mendoza has questioned the legal standing of three Makati lawyers who have filed a suit before the Supreme Court against the Tanodbayan [ombudsman]. According to Mendoza, the lawyers have no personal, material, or substantial interests in the Aquino case. He added that none of them are respondents before the Tanodbayan, which means they have no legal standing to question its authority before the Supreme Court. [Text] [Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in Tagalog 2230 GMT 8 Nov 84 HK]

REMOVING PRICE CONTROLS--Price controls on all basic agricultural commodities will be lifted before the end of the year. Trade and Industry Minister Roberto Ongpin says that continuous evaluation of other products under price control is being undertaken. He said as soon as the government is certain that traders will not take advantage of the delisting of the basic agricultural commodities, they will be delisted from the price controls. Basic agricultural commodities which have earlier been removed from the list are pork, chicken, and eggs. The only agricultural commodities that are still under price control are rice and sugar. [Text] [Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 11 Nov 84 HK]

COLLAPSE OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS--Education Minister Jaime Laya and faculty leaders joined ranks yesterday [11 November] in blaming what they call the inordinate motive for profit by private school owners for the collapse of hundreds of schools in the country. School owners however tossed the blame back to the government because of the alleged ruinous effects of Presidential Decree No 450 and to faculty members for their intractable unionism. But as the controversy on how to save the private schools raged, more school owners said that unless immediate remedial measures were made, they were ready to sell out to any takers including the Maharishi leaders. [Text] [Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 11 Nov 84 HK]

OIL DEPOSITS IN PALAWAN--West German geoscientists surveying Philippine marine grounds yesterday [7 November] confirmed the presence of rich oil deposits in Palawan Province. They also told newsmen in a press conference that there are rich amounts of manganese nodules present in Philippine marine (?goals) which could be used as substitutes for the manganese and iron minerals obtained from traditional mining activities. [Text] [Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 7 Nov 84 HK]

TOLENTINO ATTENDS ASEAN MEETING--Foreign Minister Arturo Tolentino is leaving for London on Sunday. He will attend the ASEAN foreign minister's meeting in London on 13 November as head of the Philippine delegation. From London, Tolentino and his group will travel to Dublin, Ireland, for a 2-day meeting of ASEAN and European Economic Community officials. The Dublin conference will discuss the implementation of existing cooperation agreements between ASEAN and the European Economic Community. Tolentino said he will bring up at the Dublin conference the need to relax protectionist policies of European nations. He noted that the Philippines garment industry has been greatly affected by European quotas. Serving as vice chairman of the Philippine delegation to the Dublin meeting is Economic Planning Minister Vicente Valdepenas. [Text] [Quezon City Maharlika Broadcasting System in English 0400 GMT 9 Nov 84 HK]

CSO: 4200/149

SINGAPORE

BRIEFS

SHAREHOLDERS APPROVE PRESS MERGER--Shareholders of TIMES PUBLISHING, the STRAITS TIMES PRESS, and SINGAPORE NEWS AND PUBLICATIONS have approved the arrangement to carry out the merger of the three newspaper groups. At separate meetings held on 27 October, they voted overwhelmingly in favor of the setting up of a new holding company to act as an umbrella to the three organizations. The new holding company is called Singapore Press Holding Limited. [Excerpt] [Singapore Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 27 Oct 84 BK]

CSO: 4200/128

POST VIEWS ATHIT'S CRITICISM OF GOVERNMENT

BK091206 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 9 Nov 84 p 4

[Editorial: "A Time To Show Our Resilience"]

[Text] Thailand's friends and foes are watching to see how the open conflict between the military and the politicians is going to resolve itself--the former with concern and the latter possibly with some secret amusement. It is true that there are cross-purposes between the military and the politicians, symbolised by the television appearances on the same night of former Premier M.R. Khukrit Pramot defending the government on the devaluation of the baht and of Supreme Commander-Army Commander-in-Chief Athit Kamlang-ek denouncing those responsible in the government on the same topic. The latter's strong statements on the sufferings caused by devaluation overshadowed the former's quiet logic on the necessity of devaluation.

It is natural for the intellectuals--besides the politicians--to side with M.R. Khukrit and for laborers and others who believe they are victims of devaluation--besides the military--to side with General Athit. This cleavage has created some confusion and raised the questions of whether a new government will come into being and whether the exchange rate of the baht with the U.S. dollar will be revised, irrespective of whether there is a change of government. As a result, there appears to be some hesitancy among businessmen in dealings connected with foreign exchange and also among prospective investors.

Those who have lived through previous political and economic crises in Thailand will realise that there is a resiliency among the Thai people which helps them ride out rough seas to smooth waters. Unlike South America, a coup that takes place in Thailand is usually bloodless, with violence erupting only once in a blue moon. Even after serious struggles marked by emotional tensions, agreements are reached which provide for face-saving for the losing party. In most cases, the persons involved are allowed to leave for exile overseas or even granted amnesty. And the situation returns to normal.

The tolerance of the Thai people already known to visitors has been a factor which makes it possible for confrontations--after all the fury expressed--to be settled peaceably, even amicably. And the latest dispute is expected

to end in a typically Thia manner, with the dust settling down, most wounds closed and healed, and everybody getting down to business once again.

While the Thai character facilitates compromise, the land of the Thais has the agricultural wealth which makes for independence in food--so important in times when the world population is exploding beyond food resources--and the minerals and the forests which have become the envy of countries less favored by nature. The capability of the Thai people to learn new skills is making industrialisation and modernisation possible.

In fact, despite what is happening now, there is much for which we in Thailand must be thankful and there is reason for our friends to retain confidence in us and for any foes not to be so gleeful. Thailand will come through the storm intact.

CSO: 4200/156

'SHOWDOWN' BETWEEN GOVERNMENT, MILITARY 'LOOMS'

BK120702 Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 12 Nov 84 p 5

[By NATION Political Desk: "Government-Military Confrontation: Opening and Middle Games; and Now the End Game?"]

[Text] As a showdown between the government and the military looms, a sense of befuddlement is still bothering the military top brass as well as the government. High-level officials feel that some sort of mystery shrouded some "links" in the behind-the-scenes events that led to the political crisis.

What really triggered off the confrontation between military strongman Gen Athit Kamlang-ek and Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon? Or the surface, it was the government decision to devalue the baht currency by 14.8 [as published] per cent. But some senior military officials harbour doubts that the only reasons are economic ones.

According to government sources, the idea of the baht devaluation had been virtually in the works last year but it was only shortly before the announcement on November 2, that the idea gained strong momentum.

It started with discussions among senior finance officials and officials of the Bank of Thailand on the necessity of a baht devaluation. During the discussions, it was suggested that the baht devaluation should come after the U.S. presidential election in which U.S. President Ronald Reagan was expected to be reelected. The reasoning was that by then, the U.S. dollar would have been weakened, thus, providing a justification for the devaluation of the baht currency, which has long been pegged to the U.S. dollar.

But then, it was argued that if the devaluation was further delayed it may come after a possible reduction of domestic oil prices which could be caused by a decline in oil prices on the world market; and that after the devaluation, another round of oil price reductions induced by the international situation would be demanded by political groups again. If the calls were heeded, the economic situation of the country would be adversely affected for "political reasons," the advocates of the devaluation argued.

Politicians have been urging the government to reduce domestic oil prices and the pressure was strongly felt by government economists who contended that price reduction in the context of the over-valued baht currency would not be realistic and could hurt the economy of the country in the long run. The baht currency was over-valued by about 16 percent because of its direct link with the U.S. dollar, diplomatic sources said, citing a World Bank report.

Thus government financial officials and Bank of Thailand senior authorities concluded that the timing of the baht devaluation should be before the U.S. presidential elections. The reasons behind the controversial move have been summed up by senior government officials as follows: to improve the balance of payment and trade of the country; to stabilize the financial situation of the country, which had been eroding because of speculations on an imminent baht devaluation; and to stabilize the baht currency by floating it against a basket of foreign currencies, instead of just the U.S. currency.

Senior financial and Bank of Thailand officials then brought the issue to the attention of Finance Minister Sommai Huntrakun, who in turn presented it to the prime minister at a meeting late last month.

During the briefing to General Prem on the reasons for the baht devaluation, the premier remained non-committal. Later, to make sure that the pros and cons of the move were thoroughly weighed before any decision would be made, he discussed the matter with senior officials in separate sessions, according to the government sources.

Finally, on November 1, the premier switched on the greenlight to the proposal and told Minister Sommai to approach Deputy Prime Minister Gen Prachuap Suntharangkun who was then acting prime minister. At that time, the premier was recuperating from an acute lung ailment at his Sisao residence. The premier at the same time instructed General Prachuap to closely and thoroughly inquire into the reasons for the controversial move. A closed-door meeting was held at the Government House Thursday afternoon and the surprise announcement shook the country the next day.

Senior government sources said that no Cabinet members from political parties were invited to the meeting because it was regarded as a "topmost secret" issue which could enable a businessman to make a lot of money if the news reached him several hours before the official announcement.

"It was a decision which was made after thorough consideration by authorities concerned and the impression that it was made hastily was falsely conveyed as a result of the manner it was handled, being a topmost secret," one government source told THE NATION.

Senior military officials have their own version of events following the baht devaluation.

High-level military officials said that the baht devaluation drew strong opposition from military circles because of scepticism about the move getting approval from General Prem, who was then absent from government duties.

Also prevalent in the military establishment was the urge to compel the government to dismiss Finance Minister Sommai Huntrakun whom the military regard as a financier rather than an experienced hand qualified for the job of curing the economic woes of the country, according to the senior military official, who has been reliable in the past.

The feeling was felt at various levels in the military establishment.

It touched off criticisms from senior officials in the armed forces during get-togethers, social functions and official meetings.

The mood apparently catalyzed when Army Chief-of-Staff Gen Banchop Bunnak relayed General Athit's dissension to the baht devaluation to the top brasses of the armed forces and quoted him as approving a plan for five top armed officers to put forward a suggestion to General Prem, voicing disagreement to the government move and urging the premier to make preparations for a Cabinet reshuffle.

The five officers were Baneral Banchop, Armed Forces Chief-of-Staff Gen Pathom Soemsin, Deputy Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Thianchai Sirisamphan, Air Force Commander-in-Chief Ac [Air Chief Marshal] Praphan Thupatemi and Navy Commander-in-Chief Adm Nipon Sirithon.

A source close to one of the five senior military officials told THE NATION that General Banchop was continuously in contact with General Athit during the latter's visit to the United States.

The plan to lodge the formal letter, dated November 6, was hatched up in the light of debates in high-level military circles where a consensus emerged that the devaluation would not help solve the economic problems of the country.

The senior military officials believe that Thailand will follow the path of the Philippines which devalued its peso currency about two years ago and is now plagued with economic difficulties. The military officials compared Thailand to the Philippines case on grounds that the two countries shared similar conditions.

"Two years ago, a peso was worth about six or seven baht but right now the value of a peso has dropped to only one or two baht," a military source said.

The four senior military officials were given the letter, drafted by Army Deputy Chief-of-Staff Lt Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, by General Banchop, according to military sources close to them.

Bearing in mind the information that senior military officials in the three armed forces and the Supreme Command shared the same stand against the baht devaluation and that General Athit was also in agreement, the five top military officers signed the letter without indicating their present military positions on it because they did not want to prompt the premier and the government to feel that the military was applying pressure on them.

The top military officials also assigned Lt Gen Chawalit to hand the letter, termed most urgent, over to the premier at his Sisao residence to ensure that the move would not leak out.

"The top military officials are still puzzled on how the news came out because it was a classified issue and was passed directly on to the premier through Lt Gen Chawalit," one of the sources said.

The military sources added that the five top military officials did not intend to apply pressure on the premier and quoted one of the five top officers as confiding to them that they were just expressing their views as the directory staff of the military establishment to the premier and that it all depended on the premier whether or not to accommodate the proposal.

One of the five top officers was quoted as saying that he was very surprised at the leakage of the news.

The leakage was a subject of talks in military circles and some believed that there was a "third hand" responsible for the escalation that he led to a confrontation between General Prem and Gen Athit and the build-up of pressure on the premier to step down, according to a source close to the top senior military officials.

"We think that it could have been leaked from within the military establishment or by a soldier who serves the interest of politicians," said a senior military official without elaboration.

Copies of the letter were distributed to reporters in front of Parliament and at the Public Relations Department on November 7.

The sources said that because of the revelation, General Athit decided to appear on television on the night of November 7.

The next morning, the five military officers were bewildered after receiving phone calls asking them to meet the premier at his Sisao residence at 9 am. The five officers were "surprised" and doubted whether the message from the Sisao residence was genuine or not, but then decided to meet one another at the Army Club adjacent to the premier's residence at 8:45 am, after having come to the conclusion that the premier might be intending to query them about the news report on the letter.

They were surprised once again when they arrived at the Army Club and were confronted by newspapermen. The appointment for their meeting at the club to prepare themselves for the meeting with General Prem was made by General Banchoh.

"At this point, the five senior military officials felt that somebody from within the military establishment wanted their meeting with the premier publicized," the sources said.

Five minutes after the meeting at the Army Club, a close Defense Ministry aide to General Prem, Maj Gen Chao Khongphunsin, showed up unexpected and invited the five to the Sisao residence. Again they were bewildered at how the defense minister's close aide knew of their get-together at the club.

At their meeting with General Prem which lasted about 10-15 minutes, the four top military officials except ACM Praphan, who failed to make it to the appointment, told the premier they sent the letter to General Prem because they were not sure whether the baht devaluation was announced with prior knowledge of the premier, who was then sick. They also reaffirmed their views that the baht devaluation would hurt the economy of the country, citing the Philippine case.

Prem was quoted as answering that he had consulted with the Finance Ministry and the Bank of Thailand and was the person who approved the decision.

The four top military officials were also quoted as telling the premier that their letter was not meant to put pressure on the premier who in any case would have a free hand in deciding whether or not to accept the proposal.

All were still loyal to the premier and backing him as prime minister, they were also quoted as saying.

The meeting proceeded in a good atmosphere and the premier was apparently very happy when he departed for the Government House that morning, according to the sources.

The sources said that ACM Praphan failed to show up at the meeting probably because of the distance between the premier's residence and the air force headquarters in Don Muang.

The four senior officials were surprised again when rumors spread that morning that they met the premier to push for the implementation of their "demand" for a Cabinet reshuffle.

Yet, a government source told THE NATION that Lt Gen Chawalit tried to dissuade General Athit from appearing on television last Wednesday night while the "hawkish" military group urged him to go on the air over the army-run Channels 7 and 5. The "dovish" faction were also active in a move to stop the "wavelength war" between government-run and army run radio stations which was conspicuously waged last Friday.

If anything, the dovish group which has been seeking a compromise between the two generals were in a difficult position as they have been harshly criticized by both camps as straddling the fence, the government source remarked.

The hawkish line has obviously become predominant over the dovish over the weekend and the stage has apparently been set for a final showdown this week, according to the source who said the distribution of the copies of the letter to the premier Wednesday was attributed to a certain hawkish army officer.

CSO: 4200/154

DAILY ON EVENTS AFTER BAHT DEVALUATION

BK101828 Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 10 Nov 84 p 4

[Editorial: "Devaluation of Baht Still Misinterpreted"]

[Text] The story of the devaluation of the baht seems to be a serial for which no conclusion is in sight and which will go on until it fades away. It is somewhat surprising to us that even Cabinet ministers do not seem to understand it, although we do admit it is complicated, and shoot off their opinions with nary an attempt to think it out.

Industry Minister Op Wasurat is a case in point. He first came out on TV backing the devaluation of the baht and it barely took him a day before he changed his mind, for reasons probably known to him, and then supported Supreme Commander Gen Athit Kamlangek saying that he was against the devaluation. He also called for those responsible for the devaluation to step down from their Cabinet posts. And when Minister Op was asked to reconcile his contradiction, he had the facile riposte of "I had to do so."

We think there is a painless answer to what Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon has said backing the devaluation and what General Athit has said demanding a reshuffle of the Cabinet. We think that those who do not back the prime minister in the devaluation, in all honesty and self-respect, should not stay in the Cabinet and should resign their ministerial positions. That will clear the deck for Prime Minister Prem to reshuffle the Cabinet.

But this we think will not happen for two reasons. Every Cabinet minister is overly anxious to cling on to his post and, second, some of them are against devaluation because they do not understand what it is all about. Making a lot of noise against devaluation, some believe, will enhance their image with workers and farmers. But this is not necessarily so because the economy of the country will re-adjust itself to the new value of the baht and all the hoopla will die down.

Further, it is also strange that the Finance Ministry has agreed to compensate the armed forces for the devaluation by giving 3,000 million baht. We know that new defense equipment that will have to be acquired from abroad will cost much higher but we are surprised that the Finance Ministry did not go through the proper parliamentary procedures.

While the Defense Ministry in its foreign purchases will be hit hardest, other ministries will also be hit to varying degrees. The proper procedure for compensation would be for the Budget Bureau to take up the entire subject and work out a Supplementary Budget Bill and then get it approved by Parliament. The allocation (or compensation) of an arbitrary sum of money to the Defense Ministry appears as if the Finance Ministry is bypassing normal budgetary allocation procedures.

CSO: 4200/154

THAILAND

SAIYUT--ATHIT 'WRONG TO CRITICIZE' DEVALUATION

BK120334 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 12 Nov 84 p 3

[Text] A special session of Parliament is unnecessary and could spark political chaos, former supreme commander Gen Saiyut Koetphon said yesterday.

General Saiyut, now a senator, said he saw no reason for the government to justify the devaluation in Parliament.

"I think the government has already explained to the public the necessity to devalue the baht and I believe that the people understand."

The senator said the Chat Thai Party was doing its duty in pushing to reconvene Parliament, because as the opposition, it had to do what it could to boost its popularity.

"It is natural for politicians to score popularity points when the opportunity arises," he said. Senators should not associate themselves with interest groups but should support the government.

A special session under the present political climate, said General Saiyut would give ill-intentioned elements the chance to foment political unrest.

General Saiyut said Supreme Commander Gen Athit Kanlang-ek was wrong to criticise the baht devaluation. The military should stick to its role as the defender of the country and leave economic and political matters to the government "unless where there is a crisis and when national stability is at stake".

Saying the government had carefully weighed up the cases for and against devaluation, he called on all parties to cooperate to solve problems which might arise.

General Saiyut said the government was still in control and ruled out the prospect of a coup. "A coup is no solution. It would just create more problems."

CSO: 4200/156

NATION URGES SPECIAL PARLIAMENT SESSION

BK130226 Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 13 Nov 84 p 4

[Editorial: "Time To Rid the Air of Rumors and Speculations"]

[Text] Far too much has been said and written about the devaluation of the baht, and most of it has been misleading and tending to create misunderstanding of a subject that is not easily understood by the man-in-the-street. Supreme Commander Gen Athit Kamlang-ek, last Wednesday, shot from the hip at devaluation and demanded a reshuffle of the Cabinet. He had been on a trip to the United States and had just returned and ostensibly he did not have the time to think about the whole picture nor the time to listen to any briefing on the fiscal necessities.

Since last Wednesday speculations and rumors have taken over and there has been a lot of wild talk about a government-military confrontation, a coup d'etat, etc. The government, with Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon taking full responsibility, refused to budget--as a matter of fact it had no other choice because the devaluation cannot be reversed. The opposition Chat Thai Party got into the act and demanded a special session of the Parliament. General Athit himself had demanded a Cabinet reshuffle.

But yesterday General Athit--obviously worried about the confusion he was causing--reversed his stand and withdrew the demand for a Cabinet reshuffle. It takes a lot of courage for a man in his position to make a volte face. But from our point of view the matter is not settled. Unfortunately, the last 10 days have had ill-informed rumor-mills working overtime and it may now be argued wrongly that the differences between the government and the military have been papered over and that there is something simmering under the surface.

It is the duty of the government and the military to clear the air--rid the country of ill-intentioned speculations and rumors. There is of course only one way to do it and that is by calling a special session of the Parliament. We have commended the Chat Thai Party for trying that parliamentary route and the government, if it does pre-empt the opposition in convening a special session, all the better.

It will be an ideal opportunity for the government to show the people through Parliament that it has nothing to hide, that it has acted with a clean conscience for the benefit of the country, and that there is no dirty linen to be washed. It will also give the opposition to prepare and ask penetrating questions but it must not resort to gimmicks or "dirty tricks". The quicker the dust settles, the better for the country. The government can return to business-as-usual without any cloud hanging over it.

CSO: 4200/154

CHAT THAI LEADERS ON MOVE FOR PARLIAMENT SESSION

BK120322 Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 12 Nov 84 pp 1, 2

[Text] Opposition leader Maj Gen Praman Adireksan was apparently optimistic yesterday that his Chat Thai Party backed by the military will succeed in its weeklong jockeying for the opening of a parliamentary session within today or tomorrow.

However, he denied knowledge of a claim by Col Phon Roengprasoetwith, his deputy, that the party had obtained enough signatures to push through the motion for the extraordinary session.

"I don't know how many signatures we have got because I have assigned party Secretary General Banhan Sinlapa-acha to handle the gathering," he told reporters.

He said if the government decides to dissolve Parliament, then it would hurt its reputation because Parliament had done nothing wrong.

He also discredited speculations that the military might stage a coup d'etat.

Colonel Phon, known to have developed close connections with the military, claimed that the opposition will be able to submit a motion calling for the session today. The motion, he said, will be submitted to Parliament President Ukrit Mongkhonnawin today.

He claimed that the opposition party had collected 192 signatures, more than the required minimum of 189. The 192 signatures have been signed by 108 Chat Thai MP's, 71 senators and some government MP's, according to the Uthani Thani MP.

But he added that he was still lobbying for additional signatures from MP's just in case.

The deputy Chat Thai leader said that he will put forward a proposal to his party that a motion be submitted seeking the ouster of Finance Minister Sommai Huntrakun.

However, Banhan said yesterday that he had only about 120 signatures in his hand.

He denied knowledge of Colonel Phon's claim that many senators would show up at Parliament to sign the motion.

But if the party obtains enough signatures from senators today, it would be able to make an official call for the special session tomorrow, he added.

CSO: 4200/154

MILITARY SENATORS SUPPORT PARLIAMENT SESSION

BK120216 Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 12 Nov 84 p 1

[Text] A Senate whip, Col Thani Seniwong na Ayutthaya, said yesterday that the military faction in the Senate was also launching its move for the opening of a special parliamentary session to debate the baht devaluation.

He, however, would not give the number of senators who have supported a motion of the extraordinary House session but said conflicts of opinions over the issue have increased.

He said the difference of opinions on the baht devaluation should be debated in the National Legislative Assembly instead of letting legislators criticize it outside Parliament.

Asked about a report that some 70 senators have signed for the motion, Colonel Thani said he had yet to find a confirmation to the report but "if that is true then the opposition should be able to immediately submit the motion to Parliament. [no closing quote as published]

Deputy Prime Minister Phichai Rattakun, meanwhile, said last night that it would be in line with the democratic system that senators would join the move to open a special parliamentary session.

"That is the right thing to do. We should debate in Parliament instead of exercising our forces," he said.

He said the government would be ready to explain to the opposition on the baht devaluation in Parliament, adding that the issue will be raised for discussion in the meeting of the Council of Economic Ministers today.

In a separate interview to reporters earlier in the day, Phichai would not comment on a statement by Supreme Commander Gen Athit Kamlang-ek on Saturday night that he stood firm to his opposition against the government on the baht devaluation.

"I don't know anything if it's about the military," he said.

CSO: 4200/154

REACTION CONTINUES IN WAKE OF BAHT DEVALUATION

Military Call for Shuffle Viewed

BK080345 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 8 Nov 84 p 4

[The Chongkhadikit commentary: "What's Behind That Call for a Cabinet Re-shuffle"]

[Text] The request by military leaders to Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon to reorganise his cabinet should not come as a surprise to those who have been closely watching the political situation.

The reason given is general public dissatisfaction with the devaluation of the baht and the consequences to the cost of living and adverse effects on the national economy. However, it has been known for sometime that the military and the politicians have been confronting each other in a Mexican stand-off, the military desiring the kind of role it has played previously in the administration of the country and the politicians refusing to grant them that role.

It is also traditional, even axiomatic, that in times of chaos the military have come to the forefront and exerted themselves as a stabilising force. The difficulties caused by the devaluation of the baht, whether the devaluation is justified or not, have apparently brought about the "chaotic conditions" under which the military feel that they must act--for the sake of the country and the people.

No matter how many or what reasons have been presented by the Ministry of Finance for the drastic monetary measure it has taken, they have evidently fallen on deaf ears--of both the people who suffer from the devaluation and the military who believe that the time has come for governmental changes.

What the public and the military are interested in are the problems that have been caused, or are expected to be caused by the devaluation. Unacquainted with the economic and financial implications, they believe that the value of the baht should be kept firm and strong, and that any government which devalues the baht does not deserve to remain in office.

That is the political consequence of which the minister of finance should have been aware, if he was not already aware, when he took it upon himself to devalue the baht.

Although the finance minister has obviously been strongly criticised for his action without consultation in the cabinet (probably for fear of certain people trying to profit from knowledge--a probability that was dealt with in the past by keeping all ministers inside Government House until the announcement), the whole government has to accept responsibility.

After the heated cabinet meeting Tuesday the key ministers appeared on television to demonstrate solidarity. So the military could not be blamed for requesting that the whole cabinet be changed, not just for the replacement of the finance minister.

When this same government devalued the baht on an earlier occasion, Prime Minister Prem was in good health, considered to be in charge and continued to enjoy the confidence of the military.

However, General Prem has been ill and does not appear to be in charge, and it is felt that the various ministers are acting on their own in their various domains. That is how the military leaders who signed the "reshuffle now" letter to the Prime Minister must be viewing the cabinet.

The step that the military have taken is a most serious one. It is likely that they have considered all the implications, including the possibility that the Prime Minister will reject the request or may resign rather than submit to the pressure--in which case the search for a new prime minister will have to begin.

Whoever it is has to be someone having royal approbation, military approval, popular appeal and international respect--all the qualities which General Prem has possessed in his prime. And that person must have the capability of bringing about cooperation between the military and the politicians, to replace confrontation, for the good of the kingdom.

To prevent the request from precipitating a conflict of interests between the military and the politicians, a compromise will have to be urgently worked out. It requires cool heads all around, wisdom and a statesmanlike attitude on the part of all parties concerned, with only the national interest paramount in their minds.

When the matter reaches the stage of "who gives in," a solution to "save face" on all sides has to be carefully considered but under the present circumstances can hardly be attainable.

With neither side giving in, the issue is more likely than not to be submitted to Parliament. Military members of the senate will possibly sign up with the opposition Chat Thai Party to provide the required numbers necessary to call for an extraordinary session. At that session the problem will be resolved either by resignation of one party or the willingness of the other party to back down.

The session may well provide the opportunity for constitutional amendments to permit civil servants or military officers who are senators to be appointed to certain cabinet posts and to break down province-wide constituencies into smaller ones. Efforts to strike such a bargain between the military and the politicians may take place in the corridors of power before Parliament meets.

The principles of democracy and the realities of politics in Thailand will be weighted against each other in the parliamentary scales.

The most crucial role will be played by president of Parliament, Dr Ukrit Mongkhonnawin, who has the authority to recommend to his majesty the king the nomination of prime ministers.

Bunchu Comments

BK070255 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 7 Nov 84 p 3

[By the Chongkhadikit]

[Excerpt] Former Finance Minister Bunchu Rotchanasathian expressed fear yesterday that if the devaluation of the baht is allowed to continue to have its ill effects, it could make Thailand "another Philippines" in the near future, as far as the economy is concerned.

"We don't want that to happen, but we have to look at what can happen in the future," he said.

He said that in a truly democratic system the people could show their dissatisfaction with the devaluation by requiring their parliamentary representatives to do something about the matter.

As it is, the victims will have to bear their suffering stoically.

"New thinking about the economy is critically needed," stressed Mr Bunchu.

"There must be a way by which the people can have the opportunity to participate in decisionmaking or in stopping a decision which will cause them to suffer the consequences, or in getting their opinions heeded. We need a mechanism by which people can make their feelings known. Our MP's are supposed to be the conduit. But have they acted on behalf of the people in such matters?" asked Mr Bunchu.

"Elsewhere, if the government does something wrong, the people can use democratic means to change that government."

At the same time, Bunchu said he does not think elections would solve problems "because the people still think that everything depends upon the soldiers."

The soldiers, he added, "can come out and do it. If they can't, they must be fair to the civilians. They should step down and let those civilians who can do so do it."

Mr Bunchu explained that a monetary measure like devaluation does not work--or brings about adverse effects--if it is carried out alone.

A series of measures has to be taken together like reduction of production and transport costs, market intervention where and when necessary, growth of domestic products, quality control, and price competitiveness in overseas markets if the expanding trade deficit is to be slashed and the deterioration of the Thai economy is to be halted.

To correct the economic decline, Mr Bunchu said, the causes of the decline have to be analysed. Agricultural production has increased on a national scale but prices have fallen. Production costs are high. The yield per rai of rice and other commodities has dropped, despite the general agricultural production increase, causing lower income for the farmers and lower purchasing power of the family and the individual generally.

Nothing has been done to improve the agricultural product processing industry, Mr Bunchu said. Reduced domestic purchasing power and restrictions and protectionism in markets abroad have badly affected Thai industries.

POST Editorial

BK030307 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 3 Nov 84 p 4

[Editorial: "Devaluation: Why It's the Right Move"]

[Text] The devaluation of the baht has been necessary for a long time but the government has not dared to take the plunge for political reasons. The effects of a currency devaluation on governmental stability had been feared in case any display of public dissatisfaction might force resignation of the cabinet. So long as there was apprehension over how the repercussions would hit the authorities in power, the economy deteriorated as a result of an artificially high baht.

Evidently, economic considerations have now superseded political considerations sufficiently to force the Ministry of Finance to decide to make the biggest ever devaluation of the baht--from 23 to 27 baht to the U.S. dollar. What is more important is that the ministry has declared that the baht is no longer tied to the American currency. The 27 baht to 1 U.S. dollar is only the starting rate, the level to float in accordance with the value of the currencies of Thailand's major trading partners and periodic announcements are to be made on rates revised in the light of international currency market circumstances.

The measure would have given the government an image of political courage if it had been taken much earlier. Now, it would appear as if the administration has no choice. Damage has been done to the national economy by an over-valued baht. The trade deficit has increased, considerably threatening the nation's balance of payments and debt servicing.

We had tended to blame other countries for our plight. We had protested against Japan for not doing anything about the imbalance in commerce. We had criticised other countries for pinching tourists from us.

We failed to do anything ourselves to solve all these problems from our side. We kept our production and transportation costs high, despite the fact that we did not need to do so in the light of falling world oil prices and the fact that our fuel fund had risen to around 4,000 million baht. We could not make our agricultural commodities and semi-industrial or industrial products competitive in the world's markets.

By maintaining our baht at a high level, tying it with the currency of the most advanced country in the world, by placing heavy hotel room, restaurant and drink

taxes on tourists, and by refusing to consider tourist-class hotels for industrial electricity rates, we made Thailand into one of the most expensive places for a vacation.

We must rely more and more on tourism as we find it more and more difficult to market our farm and factory products. The income from tourism is "invisible" but nevertheless real. And we need it to keep ourselves solvent. We must devote ourselves to the active promotion of tourism now that the baht has been devalued.

We must take action also in an all-out export drive to make sure that the devaluation has not come too late.

Official Gets Bomb Threat

BK060315 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 6 Nov 84 p 3

[Text] Deputy Finance Minister Amnuai Yotsuk yesterday categorically denied that he knew about the baht devaluation before it was announced last Friday.

He said since the devaluation took effect he has received numerous anonymous phone calls with some threatening to plant a bomb at the ministry.

Mr Amnuai said that he had no objections to the planting of a bomb, "but do make sure that it is not placed in the wrong room."

Two Social Action Party MP's also came to see him yesterday to complain about Japan's counteraction over the devaluation.

The MP's, Sgt-Maj Anan Ruangkun of Songkhla and Hom Thongprasoet of Rayong, said Japan had cut the price of Thai rubber and marine products sold in its market by the same percentage.

The MP's were quoted by Mr Amnuai as saying that the step taken by the Japanese might result in more goods being sold but at low prices.

They reportedly likened the benefit of the devaluation to a large chunk of ice which would be completely melted before it even reached the hands of farmers and fishermen.

Khukrit Comments

BK080529 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 8 Nov 84 p 3

[Excerpts] M.R. Khukrit Pramot said last night the devaluation of the baht was inevitable if the country's economic stability is to be maintained. The Social Action Party [SAP] leader said in a television interview that the overvalued baht has been disadvantageous to Thai exporters and has caused the dollar outflow which depleted the country's foreign reserves. M.R. Khukrit also pledged continued SAP support for the government. He said he would rather call the devaluation a "revaluation of the U.S. dollar against the baht."

The SAP leader said though the prices of imported products would go up, the prices of locally-made goods would remain unchanged. But the government must find ways to control price inflation, he added. M.R. Khudrit called on the people to adjust their lifestyle to cope with higher cost of living, adding that the Bank of Thailand should see to it that credit for import of luxurious goods be tightened.

Reaction to Athit Statement

BK081039 Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English 8 Nov 84 p 4

[Text] Former Commander of the Fourth Army Region Gen Han Linanon this morning attacked the strong criticism by Supreme Commander Gen Athit Kamlang-ek and his call for cabinet reshuffle.

Asked to comment on General Athit's statement, former General Harn described it as a gross interference in government affairs.

He believed that what the government had done had been carefully studied and would be beneficial to the country.

He said General Athit's statement would exert a pressure to the government, especially the prime minister.

He said that the prime minister is the one who decided whether the cabinet would be reshuffled.

He added that he could hardly predict the political outcome of the issue.

General Han was supported by Interior Minister Gen Sitthi Chirarot who said this morning that only the prime minister would decide whether to reshuffle the cabinet.

However, First Army Region Commander Lt-Gen Phichit Kunlawanit said that as he had been in the military for a long time, he knew about the hardship for the people.

He said that the military had anticipated imminent chaos after the baht devaluation and therefore it warned the government.

When asked by reporters to comment on General Athit's statement, he said "my boss had already made clear of what he had said."

"I strongly agreed with what he said," he added.

Government spokesman Trairong Suwannakhiri said he would use patience.

Deputy Prime Minister Gen Prachuap Suntharangkun, emerging from a meeting at the prime minister's office, told reporters "we talked about many aspects of work."

But for the criticism, he replied "we didn't talk about it."

Government spokesman Trairong, who became a target of General Athit's attack last night, said that as he acted as a mouthpiece of the government, it was his duty to defend the government.

The people will make their own judgment, he said.

He said that human beings have feelings, and added he did not want to prolong the matter.

"I would stick to patience which is the merit of the people who have democracy."

Editorial Minimizes Effect

BK050339 Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 5 Nov 84 p 4

[Editorial: "Devaluation Won't Hurt the Man-in-the-Street"]

[Text] All countries which devalue their currency say that it is to boost exports and to curb imports, thereby improving the balance of payments picture. This is sound logic and is an economic truism. But it must not be forgotten that devaluation means that the government has tried every other means of improving the fiscal position of the country and has failed and has resorted to the final, unsavoury choice.

However, the devaluation of the baht by 17.39 percent, has various aspects to it, the primary one being the determined assault of the U.S. dollar on all currencies of the world. Every one from Tokyo to Toronto has said that the U.S. dollar is unrealistically overvalued and, even when they said it, it was not news. The currency of economically strong nations like Japan and West Germany were able to withstand the onslaught of the dollar because everybody is also sure that the dollar cannot be overvalued indefinitely. Weaker economies, like Britain and France, suffered the ignominy of their currencies plummeting.

Linked to the dollar, the baht was also grossly overvalued and several fiscal experts predicted devaluation of the baht somewhere between July and October. Somehow this was put off--possibly due to political implications--to a date which is either too late or too soon. It is too late because if the matter had been approached realistically the devaluation need not have been the highest ever if made a couple of months ago. It is too soon from the other point of view--after the American presidential elections, the dollar may adjust itself to a more realistic value, immaterial of who wins.

Since it is no use getting wise after the event, we have to consider the implications for the man-in-the-street, by and large he will not be affected. The price of imported crude oil will be the major problem but the government has said that it will subsidize it. This means that there will be no immediate rise in inflation. The government has been able to control inflation and keep it down this year to 1 or 2 percent, and the expected 5 percent inflation next year will not be affected either.

The government will be hard hit, however, in the repayment of foreign debts, all of which are calculated in hard currencies. We do not expect a spectacular export boost nor a downright decline in imports. However, the tourist industry will have a big boost. Till now, for American tourists, Britain and France have been extremely attractive because of the very favourable exchange rates. The devaluation will make Thailand equally attractive and if this expected boom occurs, it may offset the problems of debt-servicing a great deal. The devaluation of the baht is unlikely in the near future but to let it float against a basket of currencies and periodically reset the value of the baht is a step in the right direction.

Editorial on Reshuffle Proposal

BK080249 Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 8 Nov 84 p 4

[Editorial: "Let the Premier Decide"]

[Text] The top military officers of the three branches of the armed forces have written to Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon pointing out that a crisis is being fomented by various pressure groups because of the devaluation and that General Prem should reshuffle the cabinet. In addition they have said that they have consulted Supreme Commander Gen Athit Kamlang-ek and he has accepted their suggestion.

To some extent what the armed forces collectively say is true and there is a tendency for disruptive forces to use the hefty devaluation of the baht for private gain. But we doubt that the solution that has been proposed will in any way change the situation. Changing the cabinet will not revalue the baht since devaluation was resorted to as the last desperate measure.

The present coalition government with Prem at the head has proved to be a very stable one and the devaluation of the baht should not be laid at its door. The thrashing the British and French currencies took during the past few months was not blamed on the governments. All countries knew that the dollar was overvalued and those currencies which were not backed by a strong and powerful economy like Japan and West Germany had problems, some of an insoluble nature.

Any cabinet reshuffle at this time will only add to the problems, will make pressure groups and ordinary people think as though the devaluation was brought about of cabinet mismanagement. This is not true and we are sure the key men in the armed forces can discover this if they look a little more closely at the international monetary confusion.

The prime minister, due to ill health, has been out of touch with the working of the government for about 1 month. He has just starting working and will soon be on top of the situation. The top military men, in no uncertain terms, have expressed confidence in him; they must have just a little more. If General Prem finds that something not in the interests of the country has been going on in his absence, we are sure that he would take remedial measures promptly—and we will not rule out a reshuffle of the cabinet. But that must be strictly up to the prime minister.

'Confrontation' Expected

BK090617 Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 9 Nov 84 p 4

'Editorial: "Confusion, Confrontation Follow Baht Devaluation"]

[Text] The devaluation of the baht—the biggest event of this year in Thailand—has caused more confusion and confrontation than it deserved. We ourselves expressed our disagreement with the devaluation because of the timing—since the middle of this year the baht was overvalued like the dollar and the indications were clear when several of the world's currencies took a thrashing. An earlier devaluation, we had thought and still think, could have been less and politically more palatable. [Sentence as published] If the Finance Ministry timed it wrong, that does not mean a whole series of political crises should be artificially fomented.

Supreme Commander Gen Athit Kamlang-ek, as soon as he returned to Thailand, got into the act and demanded the revaluation of the baht and a cabinet reshuffle. Unfortunately he did not give himself enough time to think about the fiscal necessities which brought about the devaluation. It is not possible now to go back to yesterweek and baht parity. And we still do not understand how reshuffling the cabinet will help in the matter. If Finance Minister Sommai Huntrakun has committed a mistake or an error of judgment by devaluing the baht then there are political processes for censuring him or of relieving him of his portfolio.

General Athit is quite right in saying that all the military hardware that have to be purchased will cost far higher than before devaluation. Naturally the present budget set apart for defence, if foreign purchases are necessary, will be inadequate and again there are parliamentary procedures of seeking a supplementary budget. In this the Chat Thai Party is reacting correctly by demanding a special parliamentary session to debate the causes and effects of devaluation.

There is no question that General Athit has exacerbated a rather delicate situation at a time when Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon, recovering from his recent illness, is getting back to work and is reimposing his authority on the government. If he does think that some drastic move is necessary he has numerous options which we need not spell out. And General Athit who is the top military officer in the country, should not complicate matters for General Prem who already faces a difficult task.

Devaluation is not easily understood by everybody and shopkeepers, usually trying to make a quick buck, mark prices up. It takes time for them to find out what the prevailing market influences are and when the fluctuation of the prices of commodities end. But too much political and military pressure can have one effect which will be a difficult choice for the prime minister to make—dissolve this government and call for new elections. This will be a costly process both for the government and for the political parties. We sincerely hope that the boat is not further rocked unnecessarily.

CSO: 4200/147

DEPUTY SENATE SPEAKER OPPOSES MOVE ON AGE LIMIT

BK020219 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 2 Nov 84 p 3

[Text] The deputy senate speaker yesterday joined opponents of a move by the Democrat Party to ensure that officials retire at 60, with no extensions permitted.

Gen Som Khattaphan said amendments to the Pensions and Retirement Act were unnecessary because the cabinet was already empowered to decide on extended terms.

He said the democrats in the cabinet could exercise their power when they deal with the requested extension of Supreme Commander Gen Athit Kamlang-ek's term.

"Do we have a successor in the army yet?" said General Som. Is the potential candidate big enough to fill the vacuum? If not, he said, the government should extend General Athit's tenure.

The request, which has military backing, is in the hands of Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon who, as defence minister, has the final say.

First Division Commander Lt-Gen Phichit Kunlawanit declined to comment on the issue, saying the media should use its discretion to decide for itself.

The Democrat Party is seeking to amend the Pensions and Retirement Act to ban officials--including military men--from extending their terms after the mandatory retirement age.

Later, Lt-Gen Phichit said the military was the principal pillar that supports democracy. Speaking to soldiers of the First Infantry Regiment in Bangkok, he said the role of the military was always played down in times of peace.

CSO: 4200/148

FOREIGN MINISTRY TO CONTROL EMBASSY NEWS RELEASES

BK040637 Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 26 Oct 84 pp 1, 12

[Text] According to a report from the Foreign Ministry, a joint meeting of officials of concerned government agencies, including the Police Special Branch, the Interior Ministry, and the military, was held at the ministry on 25 October to consider issuing regulations to control news releases and information services of foreign embassies in Thailand.

A highly placed source at the Foreign Ministry told SIAM RAT that the meeting had completed consideration of the draft regulation, but there are still some changes to be made on the wording of the draft. This will be completed soon for enforcement in the form of a ministerial regulation.

According to the source, the measure is being taken in order for the Thai Government to take action against certain foreign countries making use of their embassies in Thailand to make slanderous attacks on the host country.

The source said the regulation is based on provisions of Article 34 of the Geneva Convention dealing with international norms on diplomatic relations and practice, particularly concerning news releases or press conferences which might affect the internal affairs of the host country.

"Diplomats of certain countries just ignored or disrespected the diplomatic code of conduct and norms. Most of the cases involve countries which have changed from an old regime to a new system only recently. We therefore need a rule to have them follow and to make them aware that there are norms in international relations," the source said.

The source said that the regulation to be enforced will consist of four steps of action to be taken—summoning and giving them a warning, asking them to leave the country, expelling them, or finally by closing the embassies if they still refuse to heed the warning. The source noted that the Foreign Ministry already in 1980 planned to issue such a regulation but the plan was not implemented due to certain problems.

"We have to enforce the regulation because some embassies have been making use of their premises as a venue to launch slanderous campaigns against

Thailand. They even held a press conference by inviting both Thai as well as foreign reporters. This happened more frequently following the Thai-Lao dispute over the three border villages," the source said.

The source said he believed that the regulation would soon be enforced but added: "Consideration must be given to the implementation of it as some countries might retaliate if we take strong action. Anyway, several countries have adopted the measure, including Singapore."

The source said that Thailand still does not have such a regulation, but the Foreign Ministry has in the past requested foreign embassies to submit their news releases or information for the ministry for screening first. However, no embassies have responded. What the ministry could do was to give them a warning whenever there was an incident, but this did not prove to be a solution.

CSO: 4207/45

ATHIT INTERVIEWED ON COMMUNIST INSURGENCY

BK311525 Bangkok 1st Army Division Radio in Thai 2300 GMT 23 Oct 84

[Interview by Damrong Phutan with Supreme Commander and Army Commander General Athit Kamlang-ek on the "Army Meets the People" program--live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Damrong] The first question is about the 17 October meeting of government officials, military and police authorities which reviewed and evaluated achievements in the suppression of communist insurgency during the 2d half of 1984 fiscal year. In your capacity as the general director of the prevention of communist activities, would you please tell our listeners about the results of that meeting?

[Athit] Good morning, on 17 October, we held a meeting to evaluate the suppression of communist insurgency during the past 6-month period. The results of the suppression operations during the period under review were quite satisfactory. We have successfully defused the violent situation by reducing the war against the government to ordinary insurgency. Many people might wonder why government authorities are still attacked by insurgents after the situation has calmed down. Let me explain it this way: terrorism was formerly used by the Communist Party of Thailand [CPT] to further expand its organization in Thailand. They succeeded in declaring several areas as liberated zones. We can remember that in the past there were many areas labelled red zones where government authorities could not enter. We had to send big numbers of troops to suppress them. Through political approaches and military operations, we have successfully attracted many insurgents in the jungle to join us in developing our Thai nation. Many operational bases of the communists have been dissolved. They brought their weapons to the government. Since they are unable to continue the war against the government or the so-called revolutionary war, they have divided themselves into small groups engaging in mass agitation activities and ordinary terrorism. The situation has much improved in all provinces. It is impossible to wipe them all out at one time. During the meeting on 17 October, we arrived at the conclusion that our operations in every area under the responsibility of our army regions are successful. As a result, we have more areas declared zones of peace.

[Damrong] I believe that our listeners can now feel relieved now. However, according to reports from the press and other media, the insurgents have apparently revived their terrorist activities against the government side in the southern region. They recently killed three ranger soldiers and wounded 20 others in Phatthalung Province. What further action will be taken to deal with this problem?

[Athit] Many problems have been plaguing the southern region, not only the communist insurgency. The separatist movement and the Chinese communist guerrillas are also operating in the area. Moreover, there are also ordinary criminals, kidnappers, and bandits who often prey on passenger buses. Therefore, the 4th Army Region must work closely with other government agencies to tackle the problems.

[Damrong] During a ceremony held recently in Pattani Province to welcome Thai National Development participants, an announcement was made to declare the province a zone of peace. Would you please explain the words zone of peace to our listeners?

[Athit] Pattani is a beautiful province. There are many places in the province which can attract tourists. The local people cherish peace. Insurgency caused a lot of trouble to them, and travelling in the province was not safe. Now that insurgency in the province has ended following the mass surrender of insurgents and misled people under the prime minister's policies No 66/23 and 65/25, the situation in Pattani has returned to normal. There are no communist operational bases in the area. Over 200 insurgents surrendered during the welcome ceremony which I presided over recently. The insurgents were welcomed at both religious and official ceremonies. A huge crowd attended, and the atmosphere was very warm. The government therefore, declared Pattani Province an area of permanent peace to convince everyone that the insurgency has come to an end. In using the words permanent peace we mean that we will have the time to develop the province so as to improve the living standards of the people. Hence, travelling in the province will be safe, which will help promote tourism.

CSO: 4207/45

CONTROLS PLACED ON ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES

BK060104 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0000 GMT 6 Nov 84

[Text] The Central Price-Fixing and Antimonopoly Committee yesterday issued an announcement on the measures governing the production, distribution and prevention of the hoarding of goods. The announcement was designed to prevent traders from taking advantage of the readjustment of the value of the baht to increase prices of commodities unreasonably. Under the announcement, manufacturers and importers are required to report to the authorities their production, stock locations, production costs, and retail prices of commodities.

Empowered by Articles 8, 24 (4), (6), and 26 of the Price-Fixing and Antimonopoly Act B.E. [Buddhist Era] 2522 [1979], the chairman of the Central Price-Fixing and Antimonopoly Committee issues the following announcement:

1. This announcement shall be effective in all parts of the kingdom.
2. The commodities that come under the control of this announcement are:
(1) Vegetable cooking oil, (2) cement, (3) steel bars, (4) nails, (5) corrugated zinc sheets, (6) corrugated roofing tiles, (7) roofing tiles, (8) matches, (9) soap, (10) detergent, (11) toothpaste, (12) electric light bulbs, (13) electric wire, (14) flashlight batteries, (15) auto tires, (16) motorcycle tires, (17) bicycle tires, (18) auto batteries, (19) writing and printing paper, (20) proof paper, (21) feed concentrates and feed for animals other than domestic pets, (22) insect repellent in cans, (23) sweetened and evaporated milk, (24) wheat flour, (25) milk powder for infants, and (26) lubricating oil.
3. In this announcement manufacturers means (1) a person who produces, mixes, assembles, manufactures, packs, and uses other means to create goods; (2) a person who hires other people to produce goods whether labeled with his trademark or not.
4. The manufacturers or importers of the commodities in item 2 must:
(1) Report to the authorities the amount, stock location, production costs, and retail and wholesale prices as of 31 October 1984 by 12 November 1984.

(2) The manufacturers or importers shall report the information required as stipulated in item 4 by using the official forms and submit them to the following authorities: (2.1) The Internal Trade Department of the Commerce Ministry for Bangkok, Samut Prakan, Nonthaburi, and Pathum Thani Provinces; (2.2) Provincial commerce offices for the provinces.

CSO: 4207/45

KHUKRIT EXPLAINS NEED FOR BAHT DEVALUATION

BKD91156 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0530 GMT 8 Nov 84

[Report on 7 November interview with M.R. Khukrit Pramot, Thai Social Action Party leader and former prime minister, over Mass Communications Organization of Thailand Television Channel 9--passages recorded]

[Excerpts] The reason for the government's devaluation of the baht is the shortage of the dollar reserve at the Bank of Thailand. The Bank of Thailand and the Finance Ministry decided to adjust the value of the baht based on the current situation. This was explained by M.R. Khukrit Pramot, Social Action Party leader and former prime minister, over Television Channel 9 of the Mass Communications Organization of Thailand on 7 November.

[Begin Khukrit recording] We started it out with the announcement on the devaluation of the baht. This naturally caused panic. What we have to do now is give a thorough explanation to defend the move.

The public did not see the need to adjust the value of the baht. When they heard about the devaluation, they were shocked. Their nationalistic pride was hurt as they have always felt that the baht is Thai currency and nobody can reduce its value as Thailand as a country has not degenerated. This is the origin of all the problems. Therefore, in addition to explaining the need for the move taken, I would also like to say this: Well, do not say that the baht is devalued, but let us say that the dollar value has increased. In short, the price of the dollar has gone up. This is necessary. We must think that the dollar is a type of goods sold by the Bank of Thailand. The Bank of Thailand earns the dollars from income from foreign exports, from service cost, and so forth and so on. The dollars earned are kept at the dollar reserve at the Bank of Thailand. When importers or whoever need the dollars, they can contact commercial banks to buy dollars from the Bank of Thailand for them. This is natural in all trade. When there is an abundance of a certain kind of goods in supply, the price of it would be cheap, and vice versa. The price of the dollar has been cheap for us, so cheap that anyone could afford to buy them and there was a spree in spending of dollars. This led to the point at which there were not enough dollars left to sell; the dollar reserve was extremely thin. The situation calls for correction. Imagine what would happen to our country should the Bank of Thailand declare it has no reserve left, no more dollars left for sale. For this reason, it is the duty of the Bank of Thailand and the Finance Ministry to occasionally

adjust the dollar value. When there is only a small reserve of dollars left, it is necessary to raise the price. Otherwise, people would continue on a buying spree without realizing that we must save them for future use. I realize that the decision made by the Bank of Thailand and the government was based on this fact. What made it necessary for the devaluation is that our dollar reserve is very low now. We must therefore raise the price of the dollar from 23 baht for a dollar to 27 baht for a dollar, or an increase of 4 baht. The value of the baht has not dropped by 4 baht, but the value of the dollar has increased by 4 baht. Let us think that way.

I believe that the adjustment of the value of the dollar per baht this time will give stability to our money. Besides, it is not 27 baht per dollar. Previously, the baht was tied to the dollar and therefore the rate of exchange remained fixed at 23 baht per dollar. Now, the baht has been floated and the value of the dollar depends on trading circumstances and Thailand's economic position. It depends on demand for the dollar in Thailand and upon demand for other foreign currencies as well. If there is a big demand for the pound sterling or Swiss franc, the price of those currencies will go up. This is without having to calculate from the value of the dollar as a starting point, which is not fair. Another factor that made the devaluation of the baht necessary is the fact that our trading partners do not use dollars as currency. They use the pound sterling, the French franc, the Swiss franc, and the German mark. When our baht was tied to the dollar, which is high in value, we had difficulty trading with them. Our products became less competitive as other countries can sell their products more cheaply. Their currencies are not overvalued as was the baht. The dollar is not as cheap as those currencies. We therefore must solve the problem. [end recording]

Asked whether the government's decision to devalue the baht against the dollar would have an impact on the political situation, M.R. Khukrit said:

[Being recording] There is no problem with the Social Action Party. The party has been with the government, with Prime Minister Prem, in both good and bad times for nearly 2 years now. We have to stick together no matter what will happen. We must fight together. Concerning others, it is natural for the opposition to attack the government over the move. The opposition must find out the bad points for attack. In fact, there are both good and bad points in the move taken. Each cabinet minister who appeared last night on television on the baht devaluation said the same thing. Everyone noted that there are both advantages and disadvantages. I am tired of hearing such things. What in the world does not have both good and bad points? Why must they say all that? Let us rather speak out on what the disadvantages are and what should be done to prevent and correct them, and on what the advantages are. There is no use trying to defend the move taken; it is natural for the opposition to attack the move. The government must inform them of the advantages. There is no use in being afraid and trying to avoid the issue. There is nothing to be afraid of. We have the opposition. This is democracy. Whatever measures the government adopted involving the national interest which the opposition views as disadvantageous for the country, it is natural for the opposition to attack the government. The opposition wants to attack the

government—or, even better, to topple it. Why? Because they want to be the government themselves. If the government is toppled and the opposition takes over, the opposition will have to do the work and it will be our turn to watch its performance. I see politics as such and I don't see any cause for concern about it. [end recording]

CSO: 4207/45

ATHIT SPEAKS AT MILITARY STUDENTS' ANNUAL PARADE

BK121200 [Editorial Report] Bangkok 1st Army Division radio and television channels 5 and 7 in Thai at 0610 GMT on 12 November begin coverage of the annual parade by students of the Territorial Defense Course. The program is narrated throughout, and reception is good, with some noise interference. Supreme Commander General Athit Kamlang-ek presides over the event at the army stadium with the participation of 4,272 students.

The narrator reviews the history, activities, and duties of the Territorial Defense Department under Lt Gen Charu Chatikanon. General Athit is scheduled to open the ceremony at 0630 GMT.

At 0627 GMT, Athit arrives in army uniform and is greeted by senior military officers and seated on a special platform. He fires a flare to open the event at 0631 GMT. A military band plays a martial song, and displays of parachut jumping and physical exercise are performed by parachutists from the special warfare center, female territorial defense volunteers, and other students.

At 0745 GMT, the director general of the Territorial Defense Department reports to General Athit on the department's activities in providing military training courses for students. General Athit presents trophies to outstanding instructors and military officials, including the commander of the 1st Army Division.

At 0755 GMT, the parade begins, led by the Army band. At 0809 GMT General Athit begins troop inspection.

At 0815 GMT, Athit begin speaking, saying today is an important day for the Army and students gathered to take the oath of allegiance. He urges the students to live up to their oath and says he is impressed with what he sees. Students behave like good soldiers, which is a good omen for the country and Army. We will have reservists of good quality, and Thailand will not be threatened. Students in military training courses in the past even sacrificed their lives for the country (during World War II). I am proud of these

students. They will have good discipline after taking the courses. You should be proud to be part of the Armed Forces. We need reservists because we cannot afford to keep a large number of conventional soldiers. The Army will continue to promote military training courses for students.

Athit speaks for 15 minutes. Coverage of the ceremony ends at 0910 GMT.

CS0: 4207/45

STUDENTS URGE GOVERNMENT, MILITARY TO COOPERATE

BK120520 Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 12 Nov 84 p 3

[Text] Students of Thammasat University yesterday issued a second announcement calling on the government and the military to avoid confrontation and jointly solve the country's economic problem.

They said confrontation would merely lead to negative consequences for the people because "the prices of goods will definitely increase while the people's salaries will remain unchanged."

It called on the government to urgently help the people by announcing supplementary measures including an increase of living allowance and an improvement of welfare for workers.

The government should come up with a clear guarantee on its measures to help the people, according to a plea by Thammasat University Students Union.

Union leader Anucha Hongthong said it would be impossible to reverse the announcement on the devaluation of the baht as proposed by the military.

"Now that a return to the old baht parity rate cannot be made, the military and government should cooperate for the sake of the country instead of engaging in a squabble," he said.

He said the military should not put its pressure on the government which is its superior, adding that criticism against the government should be made in Parliament so that it would be in line with the democratic system.

Anucha said students would not hold any protest on the baht devaluation but "we will organize meetings and discussions on the issue among student leaders."

Students of Thammasat University issued their first announcement last Thursday.

CSO: 4200/154

RAIL LABOR LEADERS CLARIFY POSITION TO PREM

BK120408 Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 12 Nov 84 p 3

[Text] Railway labor leaders yesterday officially clarified their position to Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon that their protest which started last Thursday was purely a labor dispute with the State Railway of Thailand (SRT), and not related to the political controversy on the baht devaluation.

In their joint letter submitted to the premier at his Sisao residence yesterday, the seven labor leaders of SRT said there have been confusions and misunderstanding that the partial strike at the state enterprise was concerned with the government's baht devaluation since one of the labor leaders, Ahmad Khamthetthong, sent a letter to the government last Tuesday calling for a Cabinet reshuffle, an amendment of the Constitution and a change of the government's policy.

In their explanation yesterday, the SRT labor leaders said Ahmad submitted the letter last Tuesday in his capacity as a member of the Senate and that other railmen did not support the political issue.

Ahmad, the letter said, has two roles--one as a senator and the other as president of the SRT labor union.

Yesterday's letter was signed by Ahmad and six other railway labor leaders which included Khongsak Premlek, president of the SRT Employees Union, Phon Chiangtem, a representative of Bangsu locomotive employees, Wanchai Phrompha, leader of Makkasan railmen, Phayung Manichot, president of SRT Operators Union, Pat Matrat, president of SRT Workers Union, and Euthin Phloipradap, a representative of SRT workers committee.

The labor leaders said their movement was merely to call upon the SRP management to abide by an earlier ruling of a labor arbitration committee, led by Public Health Minister Marut Bunnak. The committee ruled that the management had to pay retroactive compensations, totalling about 375 million baht, to nearly 20,000 workers whose employment status had been changed from daily to monthly basis since early last year.

Ahmad, meanwhile, said he called for a Cabinet reshuffle in the wake of the baht devaluation in his capacity as a member of the Senate who has to represent the people and take action to relieve the people's grievance.

He said he also demanded a payment of the retroactive compensations to nearly 20,000 railmen in his capacity as president of the SRT labor union.

Suthin Phloipradap, one of the seven leaders who signed the letter to the premier, said the clarification was made to the prime minister to prevent the misunderstanding that railmen were political tools of some groups of people.

The letter to General Prem was issued after a special meeting of the seven labor leaders.

Meanwhile, protesting railmen who continued their strike for the fourth day yesterday said they would immediately return to work if they are satisfied with the Cabinet's decision on the labor dispute in SRT. The Cabinet is scheduled to hold its weekly meeting tomorrow.

CSO: 4200/154

PRASONG PREDICTS EARLY VIETNAMESE OFFENSIVE

BK100404 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English 1030 GMT 9 Nov 84

[Text] Secretary General of National Security Council Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsirit yesterday predicted that Vietnamese troops will start the upcoming dry season offensive against the Khmer resistance forces sooner than the previous year. Squadron Leader Prasong discussed with Thai and foreign officials from international and government organizations the latest developments along the Thai-Kampuchean border, especially the upcoming dry season offensive by the Vietnamese forces. He said in last year's dry season offensive Vietnam used personnel armored carrier, or PAC, and artillery shelling to attack refugee encampments along the Thai-Kampuchean border, which burned down. Great damage to housing units and shelters built by international relief organizations was also inflicted. The offensive also forced more than 68,000 Khmer refugees to cross over to Thailand and about 1,000 refugees were killed, he said.

Squadron Leader Prason said the dry season offensive this year which ended in April caused an influx of more than 83,000 refugees and about 450 persons were killed and wounded. The Vietnamese troops had sent in some reinforcements and was poised to start its upcoming dry season offensive earlier than the previous year.

Concerning the safety of Thai villagers living along the Thai-Kampuchean border, Prason said, they would be evacuated to a safety area which is equipped with water and medical services, according to Squadron Leader Prasong. [as published] He also appealed to international relief organizations to help suffering refugees along the Thai-Kampuchean borders with both short and long term programs.

CSO: 4200/156

PREM TO ASK COOPERATION 'TO RELIEVE HARDSHIPS'

BK130122 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 13 Nov 84 p 15

[Text] Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon will this morning ask about 200 high-ranking officials to cooperate with government attempts to relieve hardships brought about by the devaluation of the baht.

General Prem told the Council of Economic Ministers meeting yesterday that the government planned to introduce measures to counter expected price increases.

A source close to General Prem said he had called a meeting of all director-generals, their deputies and senior officials of state enterprises at Government House this morning.

The meeting will explain why the devaluation was necessary and outline the likely impacts, particularly inflation.

General Prem is expected to ask those present to look into problems created by the move which affect specific departments and to draw up ways of solving them.

Existing government projects and new proposals are also expected to be affected and the prime minister will ask officials to submit reports on this to a special committee chaired by Finance Minister Sommai Huntrakun.

General Prem will also ask government agencies to set an example by taking austerity measures and shelving less-urgent projects until the economic situation improves.

Yesterday General Prem told the economic ministers' meeting that measures would be introduced to control prices and asked the Commerce Ministry to take urgent action on the matter.

A discussion on possible tax increases was postponed due to the absence of Mr Sommai.

The prime minister pledged to maintain oil prices for as long as possible using the 4,500-million baht Oil Fund. The Petroleum Authority of Thailand has said that oil supplies imported before the devaluation would last for about two months.

With the Oil Fund at its present level, price increases will probably not be passed on to consumers until June. In the meantime, Minister of the Prime Minister's Office Suli Mahasanthana was told to reintroduce energy saving measures.

"If the inflation rate is to remain unchanged, the government will have to find alternative revenues to subsidise oil prices," the source said.

Meanwhile, Commerce Minister Koson is expected to hold a meeting later today with the Bank of Thailand Governor Kamchon Sathirakun, members of the Thai Bankers' Association, the Board of Trade and representatives of other trade and export organisations to find ways to boost exports in the wake of the devaluation.

CSO: 4200/156

ARMY OFFICIAL RULES OUT PREM RESIGNATION, COUP

BK090131 Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 9 Nov 84 pp 1, 2

[Text] Deputy Army Chief-of-Staff Lt Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut declared last night Premier Gen Prem Tinsulanon will not resign under pressure and there will be no military coup.

He described General Prem as a "responsible man" who will not run away from problems. "He is not going to resign. Do you want to bet?", he told a group of reporters during an interview at the Army Club.

"I met him this morning and was told that he will not run away," said Chawalit, who is known to be a close confidant of the premier.

When asked for assurances that there will be no military coup, he said: "We have repeated time and time again that there will be none. The people know that there will not be any (coup)."

He also denied that General Prem is in conflict with Supreme Commander Gen Athit Kamlang-ek. "General Athit still has respect for General Prem as before," he said.

"Please tell the people that they shouldn't panic because there is nothing to worry about. Every side has good intentions and wants to see the country tide over the chaos. Everybody is trying to help, so don't stir up trouble," he said, the last sentence apparently meant for the press.

Chawalit, however, refused to comment on the demand by General Athit for a cabinet reshuffle. "You better ask the premier about it," he said.

"Why must it always be me. I am not a superman," Chawalit said before walking away.

Chawalit was later seen entering the Sisao residence, which is near the Army Club, to meet the premier.

Deputy Premier Phichai Rattakun, meanwhile, went to meet the premier almost immediately after disembarking from a flight from Phitsanulok last night.

Speaking to reporters at Don Muang Airport, Phichai said he was worried that the baht devaluation will affect the people.

But he said he did not watch the television programme in which General Athit spoke against the devaluation.

Phichai met Prem for about 30 minutes but the subject of their discussion was not known.

He said he did not view the armed forces' demand for a cabinet reshuffle as an "ultimatum." "We should look at it as a suggestion from the armed forces," he said.

Defending the devaluation, Phichai said it would help lessen the country's trade deficit and improve the balance of payments.

CSO: 4200/148

ARMY ARTILLERY TEAM TO VISIT EUROPE, ISRAEL

BK300255 Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 30 Oct 84 p 3

[Text] A five-member team of senior army officials will leave here early next month for a 3-week visit to Europe and Israel to observe the artillery affairs of the armed forces there, military sources told THE NATION yesterday.

The sources said that the team will be led by Commander of the Artillery Centre Maj Gen Sirin Rupklam and Commander of the Artillery Division Maj Gen Phuchong Ninkham.

The countries that the artillery panel will tour from 3-25 November are Austria, Italy, Belgium, Greece, West Germany and Israel, according to the sources.

The sources said that the observation trip was aimed at studying the development of the artillery forces in those countries. The knowledge acquired during the six-nation tour can be applied to the Thai artillery forces, they added.

One of the sources said that although the army is now capable of producing its own medium-range artillery guns, it still needs a sizable number of foreign-made artillery pieces, particularly those with ranges exceeding 30-40 kms.

Most of the artillery pieces in service here are based on the American pattern and the army feels that the U.S. artillery has progressed relatively slowly as well as being a bit too expensive, according to the sources.

"The countries that the team is going to visit have been developing their artillery affairs at a rapid pace and their artillery pieces are relatively cheap," one of the sources said.

CSO: 4200/148

PIYANAT NOT TO DROP CASE AGAINST ARMY RADIO

BK010245 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 1 Nov 84 p 7

[Text] Deputy House Speaker Piyanat Watcharaphon said yesterday he saw no reason to drop his libel suit against the army.

The lawyer and Sisaket MP was responding to an offer by Supreme Commander Gen Athit Kamlang-ek to withdraw the army's 10 suits if he dropped his.

Speaking after a student and civilian group pledged support for him yesterday, the Chat Thai MP said his statement should not be seen as a challenge to the army.

"It might be taken as a challenge, but the institution which I serve (Parliament) teaches me to value justice and what is right.

"At the moment, I still have no reason to withdraw my charges. I would gladly do so if those who have done wrong should lighten the damage that has been done me," said Mr Piyanat.

Last month, Mr Piyanat filed a libel and defamation charge against Army Radio for attacking his comments about the prime minister's hospitalisation.

The army replied by filing libel charges against Mr Piyanat in 10 provinces.

Observers took Mr Piyanat's comments to mean he would not withdraw his charge unless the army made some kind of apology first.

The MP found support yesterday from the Student Federation of Thailand [SFT] and a body called the Group to Resist Dictatorship [GRD]. SFT secretary general Chatchai Attaramani and Waranchai Chokchana of the GRD turned up to show their support.

Mr Piyanat said: "At the moment there will be no fight because I will not fight with anyone. As an MP, I have a duty to see that people have the freedom and right to do what is correct in a democratic system."

CSO: 4200/148

RAIL UNIONS THREATEN NATIONWIDE STRIKE

BK081009 Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English 8 Nov 84 p 32

[Text] Thousands of rail workers walked off their jobs this morning and announced a nationwide strike by noon tomorrow in moves for a reshuffle of the Prem Tinsulanon Government.

The State Railways of Thailand [SRT] Workers Union also called on General Prem to revise his government's policy in line with order 66/23 and bring about "democratic" amendments to the constitution by national referendum.

Union leader Ahmad Khamthetthong maintained that the action had "nothing to do with the military's move or with Armed Forces Supreme Commander Athit Kamlang-ek's statement against the government on the devaluation of the baht."

But he praised the general as a man who had truly perceived the burdens and miseries the devaluation would bring to workers and the poor.

Mr Ahmad is also president of the powerful Labour Congress of Thailand.

All "ground service" by mechanics came to a standstill before noon as the union announced that passenger and cargo services would be halted nationwide by noon tomorrow.

Mechanics said to have abandoned work included those at the main Makkasan workshop, the Bangkok Railway station, the air conditioned rail coach section, and the sensitive Bang Su depot.

The union's three-point demand, to be submitted to the prime minister to include "all political parties," and name MPs as well as non-MPs in the new coalition government.

It demanded the new government to lay down a policy in line with the "Prime Minister's Order No 66/23."

It called on the constitution to be amended by national referendum in order to bring about "more democracy."

Mr Ahmad initially said that the strike was the result of the failure by the SRT management and the government to fulfill obligations to workers.

He was speaking of the hundreds of military baht the SRT owed in back payment to workers after a change in their official status.

But all SRT union leaders later said changes in the cabinet line-up, government policy and constitutional amendments were necessary because the present situation hurt the "have-nots."

SRT Governor Banyong Soralam expressed concern about this morning's disruption and the threatened nationwide strike tomorrow.

"We are trying our best to avoid such a stoppage but there is no guarantee as yet that our efforts will bear fruit."

Meanwhile, metropolitan police have been mobilised to assist railway police in guarding SRT facilities, especially those at Bank Su, which is an oil depot and shed for trains.

CSO: 4200/148

THAILAND

UNIONS PLEDGE SUPPORT FOR RAILWAY STRIKE

BK120953 Bangkok WORLD in English 12 Nov 84 p 32

[Excerpt] Twenty-six state enterprise unions today pledged total support for striking railmen, threatening a massive demonstration if the government failed to comply with their demands.

The State Enterprise Workers Group (SEWG) also backed earlier demands for a 17.8 percent increase in salaries for government and state enterprise officials to cope with the devaluation of the baht, price control measures, exemption for low income earners and price guarantees for agricultural products.

The demands, supported by students, were put forward by the powerful Labor Congress of Thailand (LCT) and the Thai Trade Union Congress (TTUC) and the deadline for an answer from the government was set for tomorrow, when railmen have threatened to stage total stoppage.

The LCT, TTUC and student unions are due to meet this afternoon to consider follow-up measures should the government's reply be negative, informed sources said.

The State Railways of Thailand (SRT) Workers Union, holding out for the fifth day today, are demanding over 300 million baht in back payment, with some also pushing for a reshuffle of the Cabinet, a change in government policy and constitutional amendments.

The pledge came from Phonphat Rangsiyothai, deputy leader of the State Enterprise Workers' Group (SEWG), who called on the government to "solve the problem immediately" or face a "mass demonstration of workers."

Mr Phonphat said the government could face a demonstration on the scale of one in 1975 when workers launched a nation-wide protest against rice prices. Every member of the SEWG, representing 26 unions, as "ready to make the move," he said.

Speaking at a press conference at the Rattanakosin Hotel, SEWG leaders said "the striking railmen could not be defeated in this war (for back payment) because it would mean the loss of power of the entire labor movement."

CSO: 4200/156

BRIEFS

POPULATION GROWTH RATE CUT--Thailand's family planning programme has surpassed all expectations and is the most successful in the world, it was claimed yesterday. Officials engaged in the programme said at a press conference that the national population growth rate had been cut from 3.3 percent in 1970 when the programme was implemented, to 1.6 percent now. They said they were confident that by the end of the current 5-Year Development Plan in 1986, the rate would drop to 1.5 percent and at the end of the next plan in 1991, 1.1 percent. The speakers were Deputy Public Health Minister Thoetphone Chaiyanan, Health Department Director-General Dr Phirot Ningsanon, and Population and Community Development Association Secretary-General Michai Wirawaithaya. [Excerpts] [Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 30 Oct 84 p 2 BK]

FISHING BOAT SEIZED--Pattani--A group of Vietnamese pirates allegedly seized a 4-million-baht fishing boat last week and forced its 22 Thai crewmen to go overboard. The Thai crewmen were reported to have been left floating at sea for 2 days hanging onto a raft before a passing boat rescued them. Police were told of the case yesterday morning by Sathon Phayonrat, the skipper of the boat. Sathon said that the incident occurred last Tuesday as he and his crew had just taken out the new and well-equipped fishing boat "Siriphone 11," valued at about 4 million baht, to fish in waters about 80 kilometres from the Pattani coast. He said that while fishing in the waters, a boat carrying Vietnamese men had approached them. Police quoted Sathon as saying that seven Vietnamese men armed with M16 sub-machineguns forced them to leave the boat and threw a small raft into the sea for them to hang on to. They were later rescued by a passing fishing boat called Siri-Udom on Wednesday afternoon, Sathon told police. [Text] [Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English 5 Nov 84 p 3 BK]

ASIAN-U.S. INSTITUTE PROTESTS--Phat Thailuan, leader of the newly-formed National Labour Union, this morning led about 150 of his followers to stage a protest rally in front of the headquarters of the ASEAN-American Free Labour Institute on Silom Road. The protesters laid a wreath and burnt an effigy of the institute chief, Mr John K. Flown, in front of the building. Phanat accused Flown of interfering in the Thai labour activities and causing conflicts among Thai labour unions. The protesters said they wanted Flown to resign as chief of the institute. Phanat and his followers later moved to the American Embassy on Wireless Road and submitted a letter accusing Flown of being a member of the American Central Intelligence Agency. [Text] [Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English 6 Nov 84 p 3 BK]

JAPANESE AID TO REFUGEES-- The Japanese Government has given food aid worth about 329 million baht to Indochinese refugees in Thailand through the World Food Programme. The Japanese Information Service said the aid was also for displaced Thai villagers living along the Thai-Kampuchean border. [Text] [Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 7 Nov 84 p 3 BK]

INSURGENTS KILL DISTRICT CHIEF--Radio Thailand's correspondent in Surat Thani Province reports that at 2130 yesterday, Napha Kanchanakirana, chief of Phrasaeng District, and two defense volunteers were killed when their car was ambushed by a group of insurgents at km 13 on the road linking Phrasaeng and Wiang Sa District. The incident occurred in the vicinity of No Champa village of Tambon Thung Luang in Wiang Sa District. Surat Thani Governor Niphon Bunyaphattharo, together with police Major General Monthon Phithakpracha, commander of provincial police area 10; police Colonel Phaibun Nanthalekha, police superintendent of Surat Thani Province, led police and defense volunteers to inspect the scene and bring the bodies of the three persons to Wiang Sa hospital. Burial rites will be held for the dead officials at Thammabucha Temple in Muang District of Surat Thani Province at 1600 today. [Text] [Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0530 GMT 3 Nov 84 BK]

FINANCE FIRMS POSITION DEFENDED--The spokesman for the Prime Minister's Office Trairong Suwannakhiri told newsmen at Government House yesterday (30 October) that the Cabinet during its weekly meeting discussed the Chamoi oil share deal and considered a draft bill on the control of the operation of finance firms. Asked about the statement made by Supreme Commander General Athit Kamlang-ek in the United States that the government bullied Mae Chamoi [organizer of an oil share deal] with the draft bill, Trairong said that in his capacity as government spokesman he must speak in accordance with the government's policy regardless of what other people might say. He said that the government must consider the interests of the people. The people who have never been cheated or those who have been living on the interest will not feel pain and do not want the business to collapse. They want to be left alone. If the money game collapses, who will be responsible for those farmers who just joined it. We must think about the consequences. Trairong stressed: "I am not saying anything against anyone. But whoever speaks against the government's policy will hear this from me: I consider the government's policy correct. I will oppose anyone who obstructs the policy. Everybody has the right to voice his opinion. I am also entitled to that right." [Text] [Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai 31 Oct 84 p 16 BK]

LANDMINE BLAST KILLS SOLDIERS--Surat Thani--Six soldiers were killed and three others seriously wounded when their pick-up truck ran over a landmine believed to have been planted by communist insurgents in this southern province yesterday, police reported. Two villagers were also seriously injured, they said. The soldiers, belonging to Santinimit Unit 425 of the Civilian-Police-Military 42, were returning from a mission when their pick-up truck hit a landmine on a dirt road in Tambon Phruephri in Nasan District. Police said the vehicle was ripped in half by the force of the explosion which immediately killed six of the soldiers and wounded four others. Three of them were in critical condition. The unit leader, Sub Lt Thanuthong Bampen, was among those killed. The other five were identified as Sgt Somthet

Muangthip, Sgt Manot Siridi, Sgt Anan Binthachitkun, Sgt Anan Onhom and Sgt Songsak Samasiri. Two women who were riding on a motorcycle passing the spot were also wounded. The landmine was believed to have been planted by communist guerrillas. Rangers of 42nd Regiment were yesterday sent out to hunt down the insurgents. Nasarn is one of the districts which were once under the influence of communist guerrillas. One of the largest strongholds of the Communist Party of Thailand was also located in a jungle in Tambon Phruehri before it was overrun by the Fourth Army Region in a major operation two years ago. [Text] [Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 10 Nov 84 p 5]

CSO: 4200/154

MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

DUAL ROLE OF NATIONAL DEFENSE FACTORIES EXAMINED

Hanoi TAP CHI QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese Sep 84 pp 1-10

[Article by Lieutenant General Le Van Tri: "On the Occasion of the 10th Anniversary of the Founding of the Technical General Department (10 September 1974-10 September 1984): Strongly Developing the Role Played by the National Defense Factories So That They Make Positive Contributions to the Cause of Defending and Building the Fatherland"]

[Text] On 10 September 1974, in keeping with a decision issued by the party and state, the Technical General Department of the Ministry of National Defense was established. One of the primary functions of the general department is to build, manage and operate national defense factories in order to support the work of strengthening the national defense system and building the army while contributing to the development of the economy and the building of our country.

Over the years, our national defense factories have made every effort to meet their yearly plan targets on the production and repair of weapons and technical equipment with a view toward meeting the equipment and technical support needs of the army.

The various national defense factories have been performing their production work with very basic and large advantages in their favor: our entire country is independent, reunified and advancing to socialism and our people have the sympathy and the effective support and assistance of the socialist system, most importantly the Soviet Union, and our friends throughout the world. However, it must also be recognized that our country has been and continues to be in a situation in which, although we are at peace, we must contend with a wide-ranging war of sabotage being waged by the Chinese expansionists and hegemonists in collaboration with the U.S. imperialists; at the same time, we must be ready to deal with a situation in which they could unleash a large-scale war of aggression. Ravaged by many years of war, our country's economy must not only meet the pressing, immediate requirements of production and everyday life, but also meet our large and pressing national defense requirements, consequently, difficulties and scarcities have arisen.

In order to strongly develop their role in the new situation and tasks of our country's revolution, the national defense factories must always have a full understanding of the political line, the economic line and the military line of the party; be thoroughly familiar with the state's yearly tasks, positions and plans regarding the strengthening of the national defense system and the development of the economy; and correctly assess and effectively utilize every existing capability in order to fulfill the function and basic tasks that have been established for each factory. They must achieve the best possible results in their efforts to meet national defense production targets on the output, types and quality of products, on both production and repair work. They must focus their efforts on those matters of greatest importance in the immediate technical support of the army while gradually making appropriate preparations for building the national defense industry over the long range. They must constantly improve the quality of their production and repair of weapons and military technical equipment while making full use of every available capability in order to make positive contributions to the work of strengthening the national defense system and building the country's economy. This process has helped the national defense factories gain a deep understanding of and effectively resolve many problems encountered in their day to day operations.

1. Maintaining and Improving the Quality of the Production and Repair of Weapons and Technical Equipment, Thereby Making It Possible To Prepare and Build Factories in Accordance with the Long-Range Requirements Faced in Organizing and Developing the National Defense Industry.

This is the number one requirement, the foremost and constant requirement of the national defense industry. A very large percentage of the products produced and repaired by the national defense factories is weapons, ammunition and combat equipment for troops. These items must be produced in exact accordance with output targets, qualitative standards and deadlines and not one of these targets or standards may be reduced, not one of these deadlines may be extended. However, it is qualitative standards that are of utmost importance and absolutely must be met (of course, the qualitative standards that are set must be consistent with combat requirements, with the level of technological development and technical capabilities of the factories and with the conditions of our country's industry). The quality of weapons and ammunition is related to victory or defeat on the battlefield, to the flesh and blood of soldiers and very closely related to the labor of workers and the money of the state. Weapons that possess the correct technical and tactical properties are a very important factor used by the commander in accurately calculating the ability to inflict casualties upon the enemy, correctly assessing the fighting strength of our troops and effectively deploying the firepower network, all of which are very important among the projections that must be made in order to make decisions in combat. If these projections are incorrect, the decisions that are made will also be incorrect and sometimes result in unexpected situations, the consequences of which are immeasurable. Other equipment, such as vehicles, communications equipment and even rudimentary implements, such as shovels, hoes and so forth, are also related to the fighting strength of troops. If the quality of weapons and equipment

is good, it gives cadres and soldiers firm confidence in their ability to use each weapon and piece of equipment in their hands to wipe out the enemy, defend themselves and achieve high combat efficiency.

Quality control is a requirement that is faced in the production and repair of every kind of weapon and each piece of combat equipment, regardless of its type, nature or how modern it might be.

Our ability to produce modern weapons is still limited, our capacity for producing combat weapons and equipment is not highly developed or comprehensive, our production and repair of weapons and technical equipment are hampered by the common difficulties we are experiencing with technical materials, fuels and energy and the modern standards of industry...consequently, achieving a higher level of quality and maintaining uniformity in the production and repair of weapons and combat equipment are of even greater importance in the fulfillment by national defense factories of their basic function and tasks. Only by maintaining quality in a well coordinated manner is it possible to provide meaningful quantitative support and, as a result, possible to economize on manpower, materiel and time and avoid the need to do things over. In addition, formulating advanced industrial standards and establishing a scientific and regular-force style of operation are an extremely important factor in developing each factory and the entire national defense industry over the long range.

Facts have also shown that quality and uniformity of the products of the national defense industry also depend upon the attitude-awareness, the sense of responsibility, the production skills and standards and the technological skills of the cadres, workers and personnel of each factory and upon the organization of labor, the organization of management and the condition of the material-technical base at the factory.

Quality control as it applies to the products of the national defense industry cannot be viewed as something that is only applicable to certain products, something that is only necessary at one time or another, rather, it must be applied to every product, applied in every case and applied under all production conditions. Whether producing replacement parts or components for technical equipment or manufacturing a complete weapon or piece of combat equipment, whether performing medium or major repairs and whether repairing equipment that is very modern or less than modern, good quality control must be maintained to insure that each weapon and piece of combat equipment reaches the hands of those who will use them possessing technical and tactical properties that meet design requirements and that no breakdowns occur because production was completed ahead of schedule. Only when all cadres, workers and personnel at a factory have the correct attitude, display a full spirit of responsibility, work hard and display love for the soldiers fighting on the front as well as themselves is it possible to complete the production and repair plans of factories and guarantee that products leave the plant on schedule, that these products are of the right quantity and quality and that combat operations are supported well.

Of course, every factory must organize its labor and management well and insure that all operations, from product design to the making of preparations

for production, the production of semi-finished and finished products, quality control inspections and delivery to units, are carried out in exact accordance with established specifications, procedures and industrial and technical standards without compromising or reducing requirements in a manner not based in principle.

In the organizing of management in the present situation, a situation in which negative economic and social phenomena are occurring and the enemy is waging a wide-ranging war of sabotage against our people, attention must also be given to maintaining production discipline, maintaining labor discipline and enforcing the regulations and ceilings on the use of supplies, fuel and finances and on security work, protection against spies and the security of classified information within production in the national defense industry. Raw materials and supplies, especially rare and precious raw materials and supplies, must not be allowed to be pilfered or become lost. There must be constant, high vigilance against enemy sabotage in order to insure complete and absolute security in everything from the selection of personnel, the assignment of production jobs and the implementation of industrial and technical standards to the selection of factory sites, the organizing of daily activities and living conditions, travel, relations among persons and so forth.

To perform their production and repair tasks well and insure that high quality weapons and combat equipment leave factories in the correct quantity, on schedule and at the lowest possible costs, national defense factories must, on the basis of the specific circumstances of the country and their own specific circumstances, look for every way to make use of every available capability in a manner consistent with both immediate and long-range requirements and the common requirements that exist with regard to strengthening the national defense system and building the economy. Therefore, they must improve their planning, establish economic cooperation and ties, practice frugality and train their force of technical cadres and workers.

2. Adopting a Detailed Plan in Order To Properly Utilize the Various Capabilities of the Factory.

A new factor to consider in the plans of the national defense factories arises from the fact that they were established to serve two purposes: first, to successfully fulfill the legal targets on the production of military goods in accordance with the basic, day to day function and task assigned to each factory within the national defense industry and, secondly, to make full and rational use of remaining production capacity, when so authorized, to produce some consumer goods, first consumer goods supporting the daily needs of army cadres and soldiers and then consumer goods for civilian consumption or exportation. Both of these objectives are fulfilled at the same time, one overlaps the other; it is not a matter of one having to be met before shifting to the other. Therefore, everything from preparing the necessary technical materials and providing sources of fuel and electricity to utilizing the force of cadres and manual workers and organizing day to day production must be planned in detail in order to achieve optimum factory operation and bring increasing stability to the factory's plan.

Of course, every national defense factory must be provided with a specific equipment system so that it can produce the types, quantity and quality of products required under its task. Therefore, it is not out of the ordinary for a plan to be formulated for performing this production task. However, the difficulty here lies in calculating the capabilities, in terms of technical labor and technical equipment, that can be utilized to produce consumer goods in order to balance these capabilities with the quantity of consumer goods that the factory has been assigned to produce and will consume on its own without wasting the productivity of workers or equipment capacity and without allowing idle time to occur in shops that are in operation. Consequently, if the plan is not a good one and management is not sound, the factory will be unable to appropriately concentrate on its main task--producing and repairing weapons and combat equipment in a timely manner that meets high qualitative standards and, secondly, the labor and technical capacity of the factory will be under-utilized and wasted.

From the standpoint of its routine, day to day operations, of its essential relationships, a national defense factory also exists as a cell, an installation of the social production system. Here, it is under the impact of economic laws. Military products must also be produced in a way that results in products of the highest possible quality with the lowest possible material and labor costs. However, because of the urgent nature of and changes in production and repair work, because of improvements to military technology and because of the very high qualitative requirements and the frequent very large quantitative requirements involved in the production and repair of weapons, military equipment and military vehicles, the operations of a national defense factory are also under the impact of economic-military laws. In order to meet military requirements, meet combat requirements, it is often necessary to accept high production costs and large expenses. Therefore, in the process of establishing and implementing plans, it must be recognized that the national defense factory makes its largest contribution to both the national defense system and the economy first by fulfilling its tasks and meeting its targets on the repair or production of the military technical products for which it has the responsibility of producing or repairing and doing so on schedule, in a manner that meets high qualitative standards and at the lowest and most rational production costs possible in view of specific conditions.

Experience has shown that the plan of each national defense factory must always coincide with the position and plan of the state, the Ministry of National Defense and the High Command of the Vietnam People's Army. The quantity and quality of military technical goods produced must meet national defense, combat readiness and combat requirements and the types and quantity of consumer goods produced must meet established consumer requirements. The plan of the factory must closely coordinate material resource norms and value norms and attach importance to productivity, quality control and efficiency targets. It must provide good, timely support of military requirements in accordance with the accounting procedures used for products of the national defense industry while establishing commercial accounting procedures, enabling the factory to earn revenues to pay some of its costs and creating additional sources of capital with which to expand production. From the standpoint of quality, the requirements of military technical products are very high. Absolutely none of these products can be distributed for personal use. Very

much importance must also be attached to the quality of consumer goods. Only with high quality products is it possible to win the confidence of customers. When product quality is maintained, labor productivity can be raised because the percentage of defective products is low and materials, fuel, energy, tools and time are saved. As a result, both the national defense system and the economy benefit.

A national defense factory plan that is comprehensive in nature can meet both national defense and economic requirements, requirements that manifest themselves in many different areas: establishing rational balance between the production of military technical products and consumer goods in accordance with the basic function and tasks and the specific capabilities of each factory and in a manner consistent with the general policy of the state, the Ministry of National Defense and the Army High Command on coordinating the economy with the national defense system; making projections concerning the preparation and use of machinery, equipment, technical supplies and technically skilled manpower during peace time; planning how to expand the production of military technical goods in war time and how to resolve the problems regarding factory location, the relocation plan, the supplying of raw materials, fuel and energy and the organizing of production when war breaks out, especially in cases in which the factory must undertake the work of those personnel who go off to combat, etc. This is one reason why cooperation and ties among factories have become a very natural demand.

3. Establishing Cooperation and Economic Ties Among Factories in Order To Create a Strong Foothold for National Defense Factories and Provide Them with the Ability to Expand National Defense Production When War Requirements Are Faced.

Whether engaged in the production of military goods or consumer goods, factories depend upon many factors: technical materials, fuel, electric power, technical workers, cadres and personnel, industrial standards, technological improvements, technical blueprints, technical experience, etc. The individual factory cannot provide itself with each of these factors on its own, rather, they must be obtained through cooperation and ties among many factories within the national defense industry and state industry.

Cooperation and ties have the primary purpose of enabling each national defense factory to acquire more of the conditions needed to perform its basic, primary production task in a continuous and effective manner in both peace time and war time. Therefore, it is a matter of principle that first priority always be given to balancing labor, machine and equipment capacity and the supply of technical materials in order to produce and repair weapons and military technical equipment. Supplies, raw materials, fuel, energy, means of transportation and so forth that are included within the national defense and combat readiness production and repair plan may not be used to trade for consumer goods or produce consumer goods. Cooperation and ties must be established on the basis of horizontal relationships, equality and mutual benefit with a view toward stimulating the production of each factory and creating reserve potentials and capabilities for expanding national defense production in time of war, thereby laying the groundwork for a war time mobilization of industry. Establishing cooperation and ties in this way helps

to increase the use of machine and equipment capacity, overcome some of the difficulties being encountered with supplies and raw materials, learn additional knowledge and experience, learn technological improvements that have been made and broaden the customer base of each factory. In this way, national defense factories can also make effective contributions to overcoming a number of technical difficulties and meeting a number of production needs of factories within the state industrial system while providing factories within local industry with some conditions they need in order to effectively participate in the production and repair of a number of weapons and types of combat equipment for the forces fighting within the locality. The position of the national defense factory in supporting the national defense system and the economy is thus solidified, expanded and developed.

However, in this area of establishing cooperation and ties, different tendencies have emerged. The first has been a failure to actively look for and select partners with which to establish ties and a reliance upon the upper level to provide all the supplies, fuel, finances and so forth that are needed. The second has been the tendency to expand the scope of cooperation and ties too quickly without first determining what is of central importance and what is not, what is primary and what is secondary, and without planning and examining the specifics involved in or the scale of cooperation and ties. The first tendency usually leads to confusion in the implementation of production plans, especially when there is a shortage of supplies, fuel and energy, as a result of which only a low percentage of the capacity of workers and machinery is utilized, thus making high labor productivity and production efficiency impossible. The second tendency easily leads to decentralization in the utilization of factory capacity in the process of implementing the production plan and causes unforeseen disruptions and obstacles to be encountered with regard to keeping the operations of a national defense factory within the orb of the national defense industrial network. Both of these tendencies reduce the role and impact of the factory in supporting the national defense system and the economy.

Therefore, it must be understood that, to a national defense factory, the establishment of cooperation and economic ties is not only a correct step to take in order to expand its capabilities, but is also a method whereby it can establish a stable foundation for itself in peace time production and fulfill its mobilization task in time of war. A factory must have both forces and position. At a time when its forces are not strong, the creation of an advantageous position is even more necessary from the standpoint of subsequent stages of development--especially when there is a need to expand national defense production.

However, along with positive efforts and initiative on the part of each factory, there is another basic factor that cannot be given light attention or be lacking, namely, the related agencies on the upper level providing factories with unified guidance and leadership. All guidance regarding such basic matters as objectives and specifics, the scope of cooperation and economic ties and the authority to establish cooperation and economic ties between national defense factories as well as between national defense factories and factories of the various sectors of the national economy must be the same. This guidance insures that the economic cooperation and economic

ties of the national defense factory are always closely associated with its basic function and task and guarantees that the factory competently supports its main customer while supporting both the national defense system and the welfare of the people so that not just one or two factories, but every national defense factory within the system supports one another, thereby putting each factory and the entire national defense industrial system on a solid footing.

4. Practicing Accounting and Frugality in Order To Achieve High Efficiency in Production.

Different approaches and methods can be employed within the field of accounting for the national defense industry. However, one practice that has been confirmed and universally applied in many country is that even with the national defense products of national defense factories, it is necessary to examine the entire production process, from start to finish, from the transportation and use of raw materials, supplies, machinery and equipment, from the use of technical cadres [text illegible].

[text illegible] and the use value of military technical goods differs from the use value of consumer goods, consequently, the accounting practices employed for national defense products cannot be the same as the accounting practices employed in the production of civilian goods and export goods. On the basis of the policy and general guidance of the agency on the upper level and its own production conditions, every national defense factory must determine the order in which, the extent to which and the scope within which accounting practices are to be instituted and must eventually institute accounting procedures for all elements of its various production processes and the production plan. When, without careful study, accounting is hastily instituted on a sweeping basis, it is easy to fall victim to the malady of "form for form's sake," as a result of which the only thing that matters in the production and repair of weapons and military technical equipment is quantity, which is a very dangerous attitude. However, if the special characteristics and nature of the production and repair of weapons and military technical equipment are used as excuses for not taking positive steps to institute accounting procedures, significant waste easily results. Moreover, it must be recognized that positive and thorough results from the accounting procedures applied to products of the national defense industry cannot only be based on the fulfillment of the legal norms set for the factory, but must also be based on the quality of the military products (weapons, military equipment) that are used at units. Therefore, using weapons and military equipment in the way that they were intended to be used, making objective evaluations of weapons and military equipment and reporting these evaluations to the factory are a responsibility of units and amount to an important contribution on their part to the accounting applied to products of the national defense industry and cause the national defense factory to attach importance to achieving economic efficiency, even in the production of military goods.

Accounting categories include the payment of profits for inclusion in the budget, depreciation payments on technical equipment... The technical equipment in the production line of the national defense factory that is used

in the production of consumer goods must, of course, also be depreciated at an appropriate rate. However, deserving of attention is the fact that even though depreciation is being paid, equipment cannot be used in an arbitrary fashion. To the contrary, the types and amount of technical equipment and the extent to which this equipment is used to manufacture consumer goods must be based on the overall situation and the national defense production task of the factory. The purpose of this is to insure that the factory can participate in the production of economic goods and still maintain its readiness to support the routine and emergency production plans of the national defense system. In particular, it is even more important that special purpose, precision equipment used in military technical production not be used in the production of civilian goods, even if these goods earn a high profit.

In meeting the large requirements now being faced in building the country's economy and strengthening its national defense system and in achieving high results from accounting, one matter that confronts the national defense factories is the need to actively practice frugality, practice frugality in the use of raw materials, supplies, fuel and energy, the use of finances, labor, time..., practice frugality in both consumer goods production and the production of military technical goods. Frugality can be achieved through science and technology, technological improvements, the application of advanced industrial standards, the lowering of ceilings on the use of supplies and labor and the use of discarded materials. In 1983, the national defense factories used tens of tons of materials discarded in the production of military goods to produce consumer goods and did so with good results. This constitutes a large source of savings that must be given full attention. In the GDR, frugality is considered a factor of economic development, especially frugality in the form of making full use of discarded materials. As many as 22 to 23 million tons of discarded materials are used annually; this figure is projected to rise to 35 million tons by 1985. This is a good lesson in frugality for the factories of our country.

5. Maintaining, Strengthening and Developing the Corps of Technical Cadres and Workers To Insure that the Factory Serves Both the Immediate and Long-Range Requirements of National Defense Well.

In the field of modern day military affairs, due to the influence of scientific and technological development in the world, the time between changes and improvements to weapons and combat equipment is steadily decreasing. In the field of modern day economic activity, the penetration by science and technology into the various sectors, activities and elements of production is occurring at a rapid rate and steadily expanding in order to improve the quality of products and win new customers. It can thus be readily seen that maintaining, strengthening and developing the corps of technical cadres and workers in order to meet constantly developing technical requirements is a constant and extremely important matter faced by the national defense factory in raising its labor productivity, product quality and economic efficiency in both the production of military technical goods and the production of consumer or export goods.

At many national defense factories, the maintenance, strengthening and development of the corps of technical cadres and workers have been and are

being carried out in a manner reflecting initiative, a planned manner that takes both immediate and long-range requirements into consideration in order to insure that factories can meet the requirements of their peace time production task and are ready to meet the requirements of their production task in time of war. The use of many different measures must be coordinated: sending persons for training at home or abroad; assigning research projects; putting persons in charge of technical groups right within the factory; exchanging experience and technical innovations; conducting skill tests and promoting workers to higher grades... Of importance is the fact that leadership levels must set forth guidelines for and organize efforts to raise the scientific and technical qualifications of engineers, technical personnel and technical workers in a manner consistent with the tasks, capabilities and operating conditions of factories during each period of time. It is necessary to organize labor, establish cooperation and economic ties and implement related policies in order to insure that technical workers and cadres develop their capabilities and strengths, maintain and improve their skills and in order to maintain the corps of technical workers, especially workers in the high grades, in peace time production and, in this way, establish reserve technical forces for the production of military technical goods when war breaks out.

One of the obvious strengths of the corps of technical cadres and workers within the national defense industrial system is that engineers, technical personnel and technical workers, especially those who have many years of experience in their trade, have been tempered in many ways: their consciousness is one of supporting national defense, their workstyle is patterned after the requirements of warfare and they are technically proficient, especially in the specialized technical fields, in dealing with military technical problems in the repair and production of weapons and combat equipment. The corps of technical cadres and workers has been and is being utilized in the production of both military and economic goods. Therefore, in order to maintain, strengthen and develop it in the correct direction, in a manner consistent with the basic function and task of the national defense factory, each national defense factory must select or accept consumer goods to produce whose industrial standards and production line are similar to the existing industrial standards and production line of the factory itself. The production of consumer goods is no reason to change the occupation of workers or abbreviate or disrupt the existing industrial standards or production line of the national defense factory. Every process involving the production of consumer goods must comply with the economic and financial laws, positions and policies of the state and Ministry of National Defense. The profits from the production of consumer goods cannot be allowed to become a temptation, to lead to negative phenomena and adversely affect the fine tradition of the corps of technical cadres and workers of the national defense factories.

Stabilizing and improving the material and spiritual lives and gradually improving the working conditions of the corps of technical cadres and workers as well as each cadre and worker within the factory are a major part of the agenda for maintaining, strengthening and developing the technical work force in order to meet immediate and long-range requirements. Experience has shown that in those factories in which appropriate attention is paid to this matter and a rational organization has been established, cadres and workers work with

enthusiasm and the energy they expend on the job is replenished, as a result of which labor productivity, product quality and economic efficiency are raised.

The returns from efforts to maintain, strengthen and develop the corps of technical cadres and workers at national defense factories also depend upon utilizing this corps in a way that develops upon the occupational skills, strengths and efficiency of each person, concentrates the capabilities of many persons on projects that are difficult and must be completed in a short time and establishes close ties in scientific and technical activities between factories and the scientific and technical academies and agencies of the state and army. It is necessary to encourage the research and use of easily obtained, domestic raw materials and supplies in the manufacture of precision military products of high quality and encourage the full use of the results of research projects in the production of consumer and export goods to support projects involving national defense industrial products and military technical goods. It is also necessary to research the improvement and full use of weapons and technology taken from the enemy that are still in warehouses in order to support our combat readiness and combat tasks. There must be a good relationship between technical management and the management of plans, labor, supplies and finances in production. Technical requirements cannot be reduced because of difficulties with or shortage of technical supplies, working conditions, prices or finances, especially in the production of weapons and combat equipment or a bad method of operation will develop in the production of national defense goods as well as economic goods.

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MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

COURT HANDS DOWN VERDICTS IN THEFT, FRAUD CASES

Hanoi HANOI MOI in Vietnamese 12 Sep 84 p 2

[Article: "Court News"]

[Text] Buffalo and Cattle Thieves Severely Punished

In 1981, 1982 and 1983, Doan Van Thao, who lives in Dang Xa Village in Gia Lam District, and his accomplices stole and marketed dozens of buffalo and cattle from many villages within the district, thereby causing major property losses to citizens and collectives and adversely affecting the amount of draft power available to support agricultural production. Recently, at a public trial, the city People's Court sentenced Thao to 18 years in prison. His accomplices were given sentences of 3 to 4 years in prison.

Swindler Imprisoned

Train Thi Thanh Nha, a 26 year old woman from Ha Nam Ninh Province, graduated from college but because she was too lazy to work and preferred to loaf about, supported herself through fraud. She was fired by her agency. Recently, the city People's Court tried her on the crime of defrauding citizens of private property.

During the trial, she admitted: through clever deception, she took much money, gold, merchandise and even purchase authorization papers from the Intershop Store and a number of gullible persons. By the time she was arrested, she had obtained 220,000 dong through fraud. She was sentenced to 5 years in prison and made to repay all the money obtained by her through fraud.

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PARTY ACTIVITIES AND GOVERNMENT

NHAN DAN ON BUILDING A SOCIALIST LIFESTYLE

BK011537 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 30 Oct 84

[NHAN DAN 31 October editorial: "Build Socialist Lifestyle"]

[Text] The socialist revolution is a very hard and complicated revolution which is always developing in a uniform and integrated manner. There always exists between production forces and relations and social ideas, lifestyles and life pattern a dialectical relationship of close mutual influence.

When the laboring people took over the administration as collective masters and the socialist economic formula came into being, there should have been suitable social ideas and a new socialist lifestyle and life pattern. However, old social ideas, old lifestyle and old life patterns have existed for thousands of years now. They cannot be uprooted at one time or in a few years. Their vestiges still remain even after the economic systems and formulas engendering them have been eliminated.

Moreover, in a country the revolution is always linked closely to the common developmental course of the world revolution. As a result, it has to face the very fierce counterattack of hostile forces in the military, political, economic and social concept fields, and in lifestyle and pattern.

Building new social concept, new lifestyle, and new life pattern in the socialist revolution is just as hard, dangerous, and long a struggle as the building of a new regime and a new economy. This is also a revolution to build new socialist men who can master themselves, nature and society. This is the most important battle front. However, in the past few years, because many rightist-learning party committee echelons have slackened leadership, the cultural and spiritual lives and lifestyle in society have somewhat deteriorated, and reactionary and decadent culture has not been completely wiped out. Old lifestyle, customs and mores still prevail. Old superstitious customs and mores and other social evils again begin to develop in some localities.

What is regrettable is that some cadres and party members and even some highly educated people have also been found guilty of the above-mentioned evils. The new regime and new economy determines the formation of new culture and new lifestyle which in their turn have a direct effect on the new economy and the perfection of the new regime.

Building a new lifestyle and breaking down old and bad customs and superstitions is part and parcel of the ideological and cultural revolution. It is aimed at building new socialist men who exercise collective mastery, and adopt a lifestyle of socialist, civilized and modern socialist culture.

Socialist lifestyle encompasses people's labor in material and spiritual production in cities and rural areas, their political activities in social organizations, units and agencies of the new regime, and their other activities in other domains within city wards, housing areas, families and public areas during their leisure as well as recreational time. This is the lifestyle of socialist collective mastery according to the ethics of one for all and all for one.

The characteristic of our nation--a nation with traditional culture and fine customs and arts worthy of pride--should be developed in a socialist lifestyle to further beautify our present people and society.

Although our living standard is still low, we can always build a fruitful spiritual and cultural life, and a noble lifestyle. We advance to socialism, bringing along the quintessence of Vietnamese culture, lifestyle and traditions. A healthy and beautiful lifestyle does not require too many material conditions. When the material wealth of society increases and the people's living standard is raised higher, if ideological and political education is inadequate, there might be a decline in ethics and lifestyle.

At present, the struggle to build a new lifestyle is linked to the struggle against the enemy's multifaceted war of sabotage, especially in the domains of ideology, culture and lifestyle. Breaking down old and bad customs and superstitions, eliminating social evils, and wiping out reactionary and decadent culture must be coupled with building new customs and mores and new life models with a socialist background and national characteristic.

In the struggle of progress against backwardness and of new against old things, the people of all social strata are demanding many new forms, new rites, new inventions and positive guidance not only in funerals, marriages, death anniversaries, festivals and other anniversaries, but also in recreational activities using leisure time in a manner suitable to each group of ages, especially youths who are dynamic and eager to learn new things.

Let us launch a broad and deep revolutionary campaign among all our party members, people and troops to build a new lifestyle for ourselves, our families and our healthy and civilized society bearing all the fine characteristics of socialism and behavior of Vietnamese society.

With such a new lifestyle and culture, our people will have more strength to advance and implement the two strategic tasks of building and defending the socialist fatherland. This is the strength of the Vietnamese people exercising their collective mastery.

CSO: 4209/44

ECONOMIC PLANNING, TRADE AND FINANCE

REASONS FOR DECLINE IN EXPORTED ART PRODUCTS OUTLINED

Hanoi TIEU CONG NGHIEP THU CONG NGHIEP in Vietnamese 28 Sep 84 pp 1, 2

[Article by Hong Sang, the Handicraft Art Product Export-Import General Corporation: "What Can Be Done To Increase the Exportation of Lacquer Paintings and Art Products?"]

[Text] Our country's art products and lacquer paintings are time-honored products that are closely associated with such traditional trades as the Boi Khe lacquer paintings of Ha Son Binh, the Dinh Bang lacquer paintings of Ha Bac, the Cat Dang lacquer paintings of Ha Nam Ninh, the Dong San engraved silver of Thai Binh, the rattan furniture of Son Dong in the outskirts of Hanoi, etc. Since 1975, the variety of our exports increased significantly with the addition of the art products and lacquer paintings of a number of southern provinces. Between 1971 and 1981, the exports of this product group increased 10-fold.

In the 1960's and 1970's, there was rather brisk and widespread trade in our art products and lacquer paintings on the world market, even within the capitalist countries, where consumer tastes are highly refined and difficult to determine. However, it is regrettable that, in recent years, the international market has shrunk significantly, many types of products have disappeared and production installations have been experiencing a serious shortage of work. Why?

Significant Declines

With regard to export goods, in general, and art products and lacquer paintings, in particular, three basic factors are needed in order to maintain and increase product output, open new markets and expand existing markets: good product quality; delivery on schedule (of both the type and mix of products required); and fair prices (in order to be competitive).

During the past several years, we have failed to meet these market requirements and this has led to a loss of customers, a loss of consumer markets.

First and foremost has been the inadequate quality of products. Whereas our goods were well made, attractive and sought after in the 1960's and the early 1970's, their quality has seriously declined in recent years. Moreover, because patterns, styles and the variety of goods offered have only been slightly improved, we have failed to keep pace with world consumer tastes. The rather apparent lack of variety and simple duplication of products have destroyed their good and beautiful qualities or, in other words, have made them less attractive. As a result, it is easy to understand why their output, instead of increasing, has declined, declined very much.

The problems encountered in the delivery of goods both at home and abroad have frequently been the result of "working at an unhurried pace at the start of the year and rushing at the end of the year." This "working at an unhurried pace" involves waiting for contracts and waiting for work at a time when storehouses are empty, equipment is idle and there are no goods to deliver to customers, as a result of which they miss their sales season. When production installations "rush at the end of the year," quality control is cursory, capital stagnates because goods are moving slowly and the backlog of goods in storage results in inadequate warehouses and storage yards. As for customers, this is a time when they are not in need of goods; by the time that we do have many goods for them to sell, their season has passed and they must wait until next year. Late deliveries result in the slow turnover of capital and increased storage fees and interest on bank loans, as a result of which these persons incur large losses...

There have been large changes in the prices of supplies and raw materials, especially raw materials and supplies obtained by installations or localities on their own. In addition, the cost of living has been unstable at a time when product prices have been increased slowly or insignificantly, thereby having a marked impact upon productivity and output.

Circulation is disorderly: goods that meet requirements as well as goods that do not are in circulation, agencies that have the authority and agencies that do not have the authority to use foreign currency are engaged in the business, disrupting prices and so forth. And, goods of one installation or locality that are excluded from exportation are bought up by another locality or unit and exported, even exported at a low price provided that foreign currency can be earned, which, in turn, is used to import goods that are scarce within the country, sometimes even at a profit.

This decline can be attributed to the following several causes:

--As regards producers, a large number of the artisans who make art products and lacquer paintings are new artisans who were trained in recent years. They have little understanding of what their elders know as the "conscience of the artisan" and there is a small number of new artisans who reject this approach. Slipshod, careless workmanship, having persisted for many years when it should have been promptly corrected, has spread like a disease. Many installations lack tools or have tools that are very old, consequently, their productivity is low and it is difficult to improve their product quality. On the other hand, the system itself still poses many obstacles: materials that are needed are difficult to supply under the plan while the materials supplied under the

plan are sometimes not needed or not the right type, the right specifications, etc. There are also problems regarding how production is organized, the contract system, the internal operation of cooperatives and so forth that must be examined and appropriately resolved.

--As regards the agencies that order goods under contracts, there is a wide and quite complex variety of supplies needed for art products and lacquer paintings. These agencies frequently must "entrust" localities and installations with the job of finding and providing for themselves the materials that these agencies cannot supply to them. In addition, the materials supplied by agencies to cooperatives and production teams are frequently not provided on time, are not matched, are of poor quality, etc. For example, the lacquer necessary for lacquer paintings must be 60-75 percent lacquer; however, contract agencies only have 50-65 percent lacquer and only a very low percentage of the lacquer supplied is old lacquer (65 percent). Lacquer containers, which are either wood or metal, leak, consequently, 10 to 20 percent of lacquer is lost. In the case of wood used for sculpting, such as jackfruit wood, only a small amount of grade 1 wood is supplied and this is supplied late, in the middle of the 3rd quarter. The brass needed for relief sculpting is brass leaf, but brass bars are supplied...

Yearly production plans are always put into effect late and the specific systems, policies and regulations that apply to this production sector are incomplete and unsuitable. These are major limitations that have caused our output of handicraft art products and lacquer paintings to serious decline.

--As regards raw materials, a plan must be adopted for investing in afforestation within lacquer growing areas in Vinh Phu. And, a plan must be adopted for providing good wood for the production of exported lacquer paintings. Appropriate attention must also be given to the various types of raw materials and supplies that are needed to produce handicraft art products for exportation. Only by providing a good supply of raw materials for production can the groundwork be laid for improving the quality of products.

--As regards improving the skills of artisans and training additional artisans, planning and plans must be adopted that provide artisan training both in the immediate future and over the long range. Localities and installations have been providing artisans with semi-formal training, as a result of which they go into their trade with little understanding of it, with many holes in their basic knowledge, consequently, their skills are poorly developed and the quality of their products cannot be high. Many places trained artisans all at once but have not conducted inspections to test their skills or promote them to a higher artisan grade and have not provided them with supplementary training for many years. This is another practice that must soon be corrected.

--As regards measures, the following several must be taken at an early date:

a) The organization of production: we must quickly correct the practice of operating in a decentralized fashion in which everything is left up to the

individual. Production installations should centralize their operations by stage of work and set up production lines that are based on technical procedures and provide for close supervision.

b) The management of supplies-production: we must gradually establish raw material standards and adjust supply consumption ceilings on the basis of new production procedures. The way that supplies are distributed must be improved in order to promptly meet the production needs of installations. Lots of products and sample products must be inspected on a scheduled and unscheduled basis in order to assist installations in correcting problems with their products as they are being produced.

c) Economic measures: production costs must soon be adjusted and made more reasonable on the basis of the value of the manday and use value. Handicraft product procurement prices must be used as an effective economic lever and we must eventually establish a multi-price system based on product quality. Contracting agencies must strictly comply with the stipulations regarding the sale of goods to producers in order to provide them with incentive.

d) Quality control: the quality of products will be improved if such factors as timely plans, a well coordinated supply of good raw materials, suitable prices and close inspection are achieved. However, if the corps of artisans is not strengthened, if their skills are not improved and, in particular, if their sense of responsibility is not high, product quality will be seriously affected.

The above mentioned weaknesses and the measures outlined above, although only suggested measures, do call to mind thoughts on how to quickly restore to handicraft art products and lacquer paintings the stature they enjoyed during the "golden age" of the 1960's. However, in correcting these problems and moving forward, in opening the way for the production of exported art products and lacquer paintings to develop, nothing can take the place of timely and reasonable policies and regulations that provide incentive for artisans and production units to increase their output and quickly improve their planning along with their product quality. This is a pressing demand with which related sectors and levels must be more concerned.

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ECONOMIC PLANNING, TRADE AND FINANCE

INCOME INEQUITIES WITHIN HO CHI MINH CITY GARMENT SECTOR

Hanoi TIEU CONG NGHIEP THU CONG NGHIEP in Vietnamese 28 Sep 84 p 5

[Article by Tran Di Ha: "The Inequity That Exists Between the Export Garment Sector and the Domestic Garment Sector Within Ho Chi Minh City"]

[Text] The export garment sector is a sector that helps to earn foreign currency but the current contract unit prices of this sector do not encourage or provide incentive to workers. A look at the incomes of the workers at small industry and handicraft installations that specialize in the contract production of exported garments and the domestic garment installations in the 3rd Precinct of Ho Chi Minh City shows that quite a large difference exists.

At the Ban Co Garment Cooperative--the leading unit of the export garment sector within the 3rd Precinct, a unit that has considerable capacity and equipment and rather well skilled labor--the average monthly income of each cooperative member during the first several months of this year was 817 dong based on a 10 hour workday. The 2 September Garment Cooperative, which has also signed many contracts, has an average income of 709 dong per month. At other installations, such as the Cuu Long and Tan Tien Garment Cooperatives, average income is only 350 to 360 dong per month. Meanwhile, at the Ha Garment Cooperative Team, which specializes in domestic clothing and operates under contract by procuring raw materials and selling products to the state at negotiated prices, the average income of team members is 2,500 dong per month, in addition to which they also receive a lunch allowance of 13 dong. At installations that make both exported garments and domestic garments under contracts, such as the Dong Khoi Garment Team, the average income is 1,318 dong per month per person. Thus, if they only specialize in the contract production of exported garments, installations find it difficult to improve the living conditions of their workers. As a result, many installations have considered and will consider expanding their production of domestic products and this will inevitably have the effect of restricting efforts to raise the productivity and product quality of the export garment sector.

Income levels within the export embroidery and woolens sectors are too low.

At present, the contract prices paid by the state for exported shirts are based on the style of shirt and are either 8.96 dong or 10.02 dong per shirt

after deducting expenses (production costs, fund payments and taxes). The Ban Co Garment Cooperative uses product contracts with direct production workers that pay them 5 to 6 dong per shirt (unit price: 10.02 dong); meanwhile, the contract of the Ha Garment Team pays its workers 8 dong per domestic shirt. Private shops, on the other hand, charge their customers the "cut throat" price of 150 to 170 dong per shirt. Thus, the income of this segment is many times higher and this plus lax management of the private garment services have caused the loss of many skilled tailors at state-operated enterprises as well as installations that do contract work for the state.

At installations that have contracts with the state, production workers are allowed to buy 15 kilograms of grain per month at a price of 6.5 dong per kilogram; however, this benefit is still not large enough in view of today's difficult economic situation. On the other hand, some installations that have been continuously contributing to the export revenues of the state for the last 7 or 8 years have yet to receive intensive investments in equipment and machinery so that they can carry out reproduction and must look for spare parts on their own, spare parts that are becoming increasingly scarce on the free market.

The hope of the small industry and handicraft workers who specialize in the contract production of export goods is that the state will soon implement more reasonable policies (on taxes, contract prices and so forth) and benefits for those installations engaged in the production of export goods so that these persons can perform their jobs free of worry.

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AGRICULTURE

NHAN DAN ON CROP SEED PRODUCTION, MANAGEMENT

BK031119 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 29 Oct 84

[NHAN DAN 30 October editorial: "Organize Crop Seed Production and Management"]

[Text] In the past few years, much progress has been made on the agricultural production front, especially in grain production, in our country. Along with the product contract system, the application of technical innovations in irrigation and rice varieties has contributed to this progress. Seeds and the forces and means of production which we have employed are of a biological nature, and have contributed to quickly and effectively increasing crop productivity.

While drawing on the achievements of agricultural science and technology in the world, we have perseveringly studied, crossbred, and selected rice varieties and some of the secondary food crop strains for planting with effective results. In agricultural production, we have developed a new line of high-yield crop seeds allowing localities and primary installations to expand their areas of intensive and extra crop cultivation, using the appropriate rice varieties.

The revolution in crop cultivation patterns creates favorable conditions for every locality to satisfactorily exploit potentials in terms of labor, land and existing material and technical bases, to increase economic results and quickly raise the amounts of agricultural products and commodities.

Not only have they received new short-term and high-yield rice and secondary food crop seeds, but many localities and primary installations have also regularly cultured the currently used seed varieties, scoring good achievements in increasing crop productivity by from 10 to 15 percent right up to 25 or 30 percent.

Although some progress has been made in organizing crop seed production and management, the tasks of researching, cross breeding, selecting and planting seeds--especially rice, and other subsidiary food crops and short-term industrial plants--have not been given due attention. Although there have been many high-yield and insect-resistant rice strains suitable for various crop seasons and weather and soil conditions, we still have not obtained any high-yield rice strains appropriate to cultivation in complicated ecological environments.

We should study, crossbreed, select and produce some high-yield winter-spring rice seeds in a consistent manner. As for the 10th-month rice seeds, we have not paid adequate attention to their production, although this is the crop planted on the largest area which grows up during the rainy and stormy season.

Some localities have thus far failed to determine the crop season and crop cultivation patterns for each ecological environment in each production unit. As a result, they have not formulated any program or plan for rice and secondary food crop seed allocation. Then, they jump at any opportunity to buy or trade new rice varieties, if any.

In some other localities, due to the failure to keep reserve seeds, rice and other agricultural products stored for consumption have had to be used as seeds in case of natural disasters.

The organizational network of seed production is poor quantitatively and qualitatively, causing a lot of waste in the ricefields. The administration of seeds to ensure the quality of seeds used in main planting is loose, making some localities lose their harvest.

Our state has taken some decisions on the task of producing crop seeds, which have been materialized by the agriculture sector into specific policies and organizations aimed at encouraging research and management agencies, localities and primary installations to produce many good quality crop seeds. First of all, the crop seed production network should be consolidated and strengthened a step from the material and technical bases and organizations to the management system, and from the central government down to agricultural production cooperatives and collectives.

In order to produce good quality seeds, we should determine crop seasons and crop cultivation patterns for each locality, and formulate specific plans and programs which are to be approved by provincial authorities for districts and by district authorities for each production unit. As regards research agencies, seed production organizations, and seed producers, they should be properly encouraged to produce seeds through establishing proper economic and technical norms for seed production in order to meet the production requirements and to have sufficient reserves in anticipation of natural disasters.

In preparing agricultural production for the next season, we should select and preserve crop seeds in the current season in an active and well planned manner. State-run seed companies and farms are to provide technical management guidance for crop seed production in order to ensure sufficient good quality original, and grade 1 and 2 seeds. Besides their tasks of building storage facilities for seeds, crop seed farms in districts are charged with leading and guiding cooperatives in producing seeds.

Seeds provided for planting over millions of hectares in each crop season are mostly produced by cooperatives and production collectives. Consequently, we must pay most attention to seed production in primary installations.

In order to gradually perfect the system of product contracts with individual workers and groups of workers, each member of cooperatives and production collectives must cultivate crops according to the plans and crop allocation patterns of the collectives. Collectives should produce seeds under several forms to secure good quality seeds for cooperative members receiving contracts. Specialized production teams, especially seed production teams, must be consolidated and strengthened, in order to help boost crop yields in a uniform manner and to encourage workers to enthusiastically develop production.

The practice of unconditionally awarding contracts to members of cooperatives and production collectives for arranging crop cultivation by themselves should be terminated. Depending on the specific conditions in each locality and if specialized seed production teams have not been organized in cooperatives, contracts should be given to those cooperative members well experienced in seed production while formulating rational investment and pricing policies. After the harvest, these seed management collectives will provide cooperatives members with sufficient crop seeds.

The availability of sufficient crop seeds, especially good quality seeds of subsidiary food and short-term industrial crops, will create favorable conditions for localities and primary units to accelerate the intensive cultivation and rotation of crops, to increase the number of crops, crop productivity, and volume of crop production, and to expand the areas of high-yield rice and subsidiary food crops.

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AGRICULTURE

FEDERATION OF FARMERS CRITICIZED FOR LACK OF EFFORT IN HANOI

Hanoi HANOI MOI in Vietnamese 7 Sep 84 pp 1, 4

[Editorial: "Promoting the Six Spearheads Emulation Movement Among Collective Farmers in the Outskirts of the City"]

[Text] Since the 1st Congress of Delegates of the city's Federation of Collective Farmers, the collective farmers in the outskirts of Hanoi have displayed a high spirit of collective ownership and self-reliance; continuously worked to overcome each difficulty; combated natural disasters season after season with determination and bravery; eagerly accepted the new management system and applied technological advances; worked diligently and hard; and continuously promoted and developed production.

During the past 3 years, marked advances have been made in agricultural production in the outskirts of the city, especially with regard to the intensive cultivation of rice and vegetables, the development of household livestock production and the planting of industrial and export crops. Both the yield and output of grain have risen. In 1982, the rice yield averaged 55.8 quintals per hectare and a total of 386,338 tons of grain were produced, the most in any year since 1975. In 1983, despite waterlogging, the yield of rice was still 55.6 quintals per hectare. As regards vegetables, the average yield rose from only 115 quintals per hectare in 1981 to 142 quintals in 1983, thereby providing sufficient vegetables to the city and marking the start of a shorter period between vegetable harvests. In particular, new stages of development have been reached in the production of industrial and export crops, especially tobacco.

Along with the advances that have been made in crop production, livestock production has been maintained and has even developed in some respects. The development of household buffalo and cattle herds and the pisciculture movement have been encouraged. During the past several years, in addition to the main production guidelines presented above, the movement to build the household economy has developed rather strongly, as a result of which the living conditions of farmers are, generally speaking, stable and have been improved in some respects. Income per capita per month rose from 232 dong in 1980 to 415 dong in 1983, of which the household economy accounted for 63.9 percent.

Because production has developed and living conditions have been improved, farmers have eagerly fulfilled their obligations and sold many agricultural products to the state. The supply of commodity grain reached 76,000 tons in 1983, an increase of 14,000 tons compared to 1982; the supply of vegetables has risen from 73,000 tons in 1982 to 80,000 tons in 1983 and the supply of both tobacco and peanuts for exportation has increased.

Although they are newly established, the various levels of the Federation of Collective Farmers have been strengthened, have given their attention to raising the socialist awareness of their members and other farmers through a widespread educational effort and have developed suitable themes and modes of activity that have had a practical impact upon the production movement, the strengthening of cooperatives, the molding of the new, socialist man and the building of the new, socialist countryside. Federation members and farmers have waged an active struggle against negative phenomena within cooperatives and uncovered many cases of crimes against property.

However, the production movement and the effort to improve living conditions as well as the effort to build the federation are still weak in many respects.

Generally speaking, agricultural production is not representative of a full-scale agriculture, its development has been slow and uneven, crop and livestock yields are still low and the output of products and goods is not large and does not meet the requirements of supporting the inner city, supporting handicraft production and export activities. There are still many weak and deficient cooperatives. Generally speaking, cultural and spiritual life is still underdeveloped. The activities of the federation are irregular in nature and the majority of its chapters are still rated as average or weak; some places have not fully defined their functions and task, some places have not conducted any activities whatsoever since the founding of the federation, etc.

Under the light of the resolution of the 5th Congress of the Party, the resolution of the 9th Congress of the City Party Organization, Political Bureau Resolution 08 on the work of the capital Hanoi and, in particular, the resolution of the 6th Party Plenum and in an effort to make the outskirts of the city a progressive agricultural area, the collective farmers of the capital must display a high spirit of collective ownership, a high revolutionary-offensive spirit, a high degree of dynamism and creativity, work as hard as they can and endeavor to meet the socio-economic goals set by the 9th City Party Organization Congress.

In the immediate future, the various levels of the federation must continue to educate their members and other farmers, increase the pride and responsibility they feel toward the role played by the outskirts of the capital and, in this way, promote the continuous development of a full-scale and strong agriculture, establish the correct relationship between rights and obligations, strengthen and build the federation, build cooperatives, mold the new, socialist man, establish the new, socialist countryside and promote the six spearheads emulation movement with a view toward generating a revolutionary movement among collective farmers in the outskirts of the city that is always spirited and intense.

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AGRICULTURE

BRIEFS

CUU LONG GRAIN DELIVERY--To date, Cuu Long Province has delivered to the state granary 222,870 metric tons of paddy, fulfilling 101 percent of the target. This figure represents an increase of nearly 35,580 metric tons over the amount of paddy delivered by the province in 1983. Vinh Long City and Tra On, Long Ho and Vung Liem Districts have fulfilled their 1984 grain procurement task. [Summary] [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1300 GMT 26 Oct 84 BK]

GRAIN DELIVERIES--As of 27 October, the provinces and cities from Thuan Hai and Minh Hai had delivered to the state granary an amount of grain equivalent to 88.1 percent of total grain procurement target for 1984. The figure included 161,547 metric tons of paddy turned in as tax payments. Specifically, the Nam Bo provinces and cities have delivered to the state granary an amount of grain equivalent to 97.3 percent of the total 1984 grain procurement target, including 444,307 metric tons of paddy delivered as tax payments. Meanwhile, the central coastal provinces have delivered to state granary an amount of grain equivalent to 83 percent of the total grain procurement target. Following the lead of Nghia Binh, Phu Khanh, Dong Nai, Cuu Long, and Tien Giang provinces, which have fulfilled the total 1984 grain target, Quang Nam-Danang Province has also delivered 95,200 metric tons of grain, fulfilling 102 percent of the total 1984 grain procurement target. [Text] [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 30 Oct 84 BK]

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LIGHT INDUSTRY

BRIEFS

THANH HOA SPINNING FACTORY--The spinning factory project in Vinh City, Thanh Hoa Province is being built by Construction Corporation No 6 of the Ministry of Building with equipment provided by the GDR. The factory will have 52,000 spindles and a capacity of 5,700 metric tons of yarn per year. To date, all the production facilities of the project have been completed. [Summary]
[Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1300 GMT 26 Oct 84 BK]

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TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

TRANSPORT DISCUSSED AT DISTRICT-BUILDING MEETING

BK011135 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2220 GMT 28 Oct 84

[From the review of NHAN DAN for 29 October 1984]

[Text] At the national conference on district building held in October 1984, Comrade Dong Si Nguyen, alternate member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and minister of communications and transportation, spoke of the problem regarding the division of responsibilities and labor in districts.

NHAN DAN today carries at the top of page 2 the contents of the minister's speech. In assessing the results obtained in the division of responsibilities and labor in the field of communications and transportation in districts, he said: Looking back over last year's communications and transportation activities, it is noted that the division of responsibilities and labor in districts has been carried out in various areas ranging from transportation to the production of unloading equipment.

He pointed to the shortcomings and the strong points of the division of responsibilities and labor in districts and their subordinate localities, saying that the reasons for these shortcomings are that the Ministry of Communications and Transportation and its subordinate offices have failed to give adequate guidance for communications and transportation activities in districts.

The present task of building the communications and transport sector in districts consists of developing the collective mastery spirit of people in districts, mobilizing manpower and materials from among the population (? as directed by) the central government and the provinces concerned, and constantly consolidating and developing the communications and transportation network in districts in such a way as to suit their capabilities and plans with the emphasis placed on requirements for thoroughness and uniformity as well as on economic results. This will make it possible for the control of communications and transportation activities in districts.

Various specific tasks of the communications and transportation sector in districts were also pointed out in his speech.

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POPULATION, CUSTOMS AND CULTURE

BRIEFS

TWO NEW DISTRICT TOWNS--The council of ministers recently issued a decision establishing Thanh Chuong and Cai Loc District towns in Nghe Tinh Province. Thanh Chuong District town includes parts of Dong Van, Thanh Ngoc, and Thanh Dong villages. Cai Loc District town embraces parts of Dai Loc and Thien Loc villages. [Text] [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 31 Oct 84 OW]

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